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Yeltsin Orders Air Force To Stop Bombing Civilians In Address to Public, and to Troops, He Vows to Subdue Chechen Rebels

By Alessandra Stanley

MOSCOW — Hoping to stem growing public opposition to the war in Chechnya, President Boris N. Yeltsin announced Tuesday night that he had ordered the bombing of civilians in the Chechen capital of Grozny to stop.

It was the first time Mr. Yeltsin, whose decision to send tanks to the rebel republic on Dec. 11 touched off a political crisis in Russia, spoke up publicly to justify his actions. It was also the first time the Russian government had admitted to killing civilians in the secessionist republic.

By limiting air strikes and holding out an offer of new peace negotiations, the Russian president seemed to be reaching out to supporters who have broken with him over the conflict in Chechnya. But with his leadership under fierce attack, Mr. Yeltsin mostly seemed intent on pressing forward and finishing the job of seizing Grozny.

Vowing that Russian forces would not turn back until "law and order" was restored in Chechnya, Mr. Yeltsin said:

"The Russian people have for a long time justly rebuked us for indecision, for a lack of political will, for the reluctance to restore order to the territory of the Chechen republic, an integral part of Russia. The extremely complicated situation required the gravest decision — to use the armed forces on the territory of Chechnya."

Mr. Yeltsin, who had been out of sight for most of the crisis, reportedly recovering from a minor nose operation, looked stiff but in good health as he made his television address Tuesday.

Mr. Yeltsin said that the first phase of the military operation was complete, and that "the circle around Grozny is tight."

But Russians have mainly watched in shock as the Russian military has almost unraveled over the Chechen operation, with senior generals and field commanders refusing to fulfill their missions.

Mr. Yeltsin indirectly tried to address those problems, saying that Russian soldiers "have found themselves at the forefront of the struggle against the most dangerous, powerful and arrogant forces of the Russian and international criminal and extremist world."

He dismissed the fierce Chechen resistance as the product of "deceit, money and threats" as well as foreign mercenaries.

He appealed directly to Russian soldiers for their support.

"Remember, the outrage of gangsterism on the Chechen land is a dangerous threat to the whole of our country," he said. "Your kin could even be among its victims."

"I understand that it is not easy for soldiers today," he added. "It is not easy for the minister of defense and the minister of interior either. You are in difficult conditions, you are not praised by the mass media. But I call on you to do everything you can to fulfill this task."

Mr. Yeltsin lashed out at the media, politicians and the Chechen enemy. He dismissed his opposition by saying, "There are people among them who are motivated — let us say this directly — by their political ambitions."

Mr. Yeltsin also blamed the unusually negative Russian press coverage on corruption.

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WEST BANK UNREST — Israeli troops moving protesters on Tuesday who were contesting the expansion of a Jewish settlement. Page 2.

France Acted on Tip: Hijackers Planned Explosion Over Paris

By Alan Riding

PARIS — The French government said Tuesday that it ordered the assault on a hijacked Air France airliner after learning that the Islamic militants who seized the plane in Algiers were planning to blow it up over Paris.

French police said that, after the four hijackers were killed and 171 hostages were freed Monday in the dramatic operation at the Marseille airport, 20 sticks of dynamite were found on board the Airbus A-300.

"Their objective was a suicide operation over Paris with the plane," Interior Minister Charles Pasqua said, "so we couldn't let it leave."

The Armed Islamic Group said it had ordered the hijacking in reprisal for French economic, political and military support for the Algerian government.

Angered that the gunmen were able to board the Air France plane at Algiers airport on Saturday, France has also demanded that Algeria improve security at airports, ports and diplomatic missions before it authorizes a resumption of air and sea links between the two countries.

Prime Minister Edouard Balladur nonetheless expressed confidence that Monday's commando operation would discourage new terrorist actions in this country. "France will inexorably fight terrorism and will not give in to blackmail wherever it comes from," he warned shortly after the hijackers were killed.

French government officials said that Paris, fearing that Algeria would order its police to end the hijacking, immediately offered to send its own commandos to Algiers airport. Then, after the gunmen killed a French hostage, France demanded that Algeria accede to their demand to fly to France.

Since the plane lacked fuel to reach Paris, the gunmen were given the option of Nice or Marseille. Once they landed in Marseille early Monday morning, Mr. Pasqua said, they were offered the chance of being tried in France — and not being sent back to Algeria — if they freed all the hostages.

"They said they wanted to go to Paris to hold a news conference," the interior minister explained Tuesday. "We said there were plenty of journalists in Marseille. We saw there was little chance the hostages would be released so the decision was made, yesterday morning to free the plane."

He said an anonymous tip to the French Consulate in Oran, Algeria, said that the hijackers' real purpose was to destroy the plane over Paris. "Analysis of the dynamite found on board confirmed that the

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4 Priests Slain In Algeria; 3 Were French

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

ALGIERS — Four Catholic priests, including three Frenchmen, were shot and killed Tuesday in Tizi-Ouzou, about 100 kilometers east of the capital, officials in Algiers and Paris reported.

The other slain priest was a Belgian, the archbishop of Algiers said. The four were members of the Order of White Fathers. They were machine-gunned in the center of Tizi-Ouzou, 60 miles from Algiers. There was no claim of responsibility.

The attack came a day after French commandos stormed an Air France jetliner hijacked from Algiers to Marseille, killing the four Algerian hijackers and bringing an end to the three-day drama.

The killings brought to 75 the number of foreigners killed in Algeria since the Islamic Armed Group, which has claimed responsibility for the hijacking, ordered all foreigners more than a year ago to leave or face death. Twenty-five of those killed have been French.

The number of foreigners living in Algeria has fallen sharply since September 1993. Embassies are reluctant to give precise figures, but observers believe only a few thousand non-Algerians remain, with the French group of fewer than 1,000 forming the largest single community.

The French priests were Christian Cheissel, 36; Jean Chevillard, 69, and Alain Dieulouard, 75, according to a government communiqué. The Belgian was Charles Deckers, who turned 70 on Christmas Eve.

"Deeply shocked and disturbed by this new act of barbarism, France condemns in the strongest terms this odious crime," the French Foreign Ministry said.

It said the French Embassy in Algiers had been in contact with Algerian authorities to express France's "deep concern" and obtain more information, the statement said.

It also repeated its warning that all nonessential French citizens should leave the country. (AP, AFP, Reuters)

Modern Scandal Grooms Big Stone-Age Art Find

By Marlies Simons

PARIS — Along the banks of the Coa River in northern Portugal, in a spot where only shepherds' paths tell of the presence of humans, a prehistoric art gallery has been discovered on the rock face, setting off excitement, nervousness and accusations of a cover-up in the world of archaeology.

The images form a parade of more than 60 animals, like bison, horses, ibexes and deer; archaeologists estimate that they were chiseled into the rock face with sharp stone tools about 20,000 years ago.

Historians have described it as the most important site of outdoor art of the Stone Age in Europe, revealing human settlements in inland areas previously thought

too inhospitable for the coast-bugging early inhabitants of the Iberian Peninsula.

But there, 130 kilometers (80 miles) from the Atlantic coast, animal images were found, grouped in clusters, stretching for two miles along a deep gorge.

Historians see this open-air site as important evidence that Stone Age art was not mainly made indoors, or in what are held to be the human race's most ancient sanctuaries: the caves or rock shelters where most other mural art from the Paleolithic era has been found.

Although the surprise of discovering a huge open air gallery of Paleolithic art inevitably raises questions about its authenticity, the dozen or so experts who have seen the engravings so far say that they have no reason to suspect forgery.

"I believe it's genuine and probably one of the most important, if not the most important, outdoor Paleolithic site we know of," said Jean Clottes, France's leading rock art specialist, who was called in by the Portuguese government.

Yet, coinciding with the discovery has come the knowledge that the rock carvings may soon be lost. One portion, the lowest tier, has already been flooded. It was engulfed by water from a hydroelectric dam in the River Douro 12 years ago. Now a second dam is being built to create a backup reservoir and, unless the project is halted or changed, the remaining images will disappear under 300 feet of water four years from now.

Indeed, it is only by chance that the existence of the

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Economic Clouds Over Japan Are Starting to Clear

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Fresh evidence emerged that Japan has finally entered a sustainable economic recovery with low inflation and with little risk of double-dip recession, as the government reported Tuesday that factories were working harder and fewer people were out of work.

After declining for two months, industrial production, the engine driving the economy, rose 2.7 percent in November from October, the International Trade and Industry Ministry said. The rise was broad-based, with 12 of 14 categories showing an increase.

"We're clearly recovering," said Geoffrey Barker, an economist at Baring Securities.

The "surge in the manufacturing sector's spending appears to be indicating an overall recovery," a ministry official said. In addition, sales at large-scale retailers

increased for the first time since July, and housing starts rose. Construction orders, a key indicator of corporate investment in factories, warehouses and offices, jumped an impressive 20.8 percent.

Meanwhile, Yasuo Matsushita, Japan's new central bank chief, said Tuesday that he would maintain an easy credit policy to smooth an economic upturn.

"The economy has reached the phase where it is recovering gradually," he said. The central banker is a firm believer in a free market mechanism and economic growth led by private-sector activity. "The most crucial point is how the economy will stand on its own feet and recover with the help of private-sector capital investment," he said.

It was also announced Tuesday that Japan's unemployment rate dipped to 2.9 percent in November after hovering at 3 percent for four months, although the number of job offerings remained little improved for the third consecutive month. Japan's all-time high jobless rate of 3.1 percent was set in May 1987.

In spite of the various signals of a recovering economy, inflation remains modest. Tokyo consumer prices were only 0.5 percent higher in December than a year ago, the government said, showing that inflation continued to pose no threat in Japan. The consumer price increase was the smallest one, year on year, in 7 1/2 years, the Management and Coordination Agency said. Excluding food and vegetables, Tokyo consumer prices have declined steadily over the last five years.

"Normally, one would have expected inflation to go up as the economy — production, particularly — improves," said Robert Feldman, chief economist at Salomon Brothers. "But it hasn't done so."

He said that meant that Japan would

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Drug Trade Scars Idyllic Canadian Isle

By Anne Swardson

NANAIMO, British Columbia — People have flocked to this island city off Canada's west coast in recent years and lapped up all Nanaimo has to offer: beautiful ocean scenery, boating, fishing, hunting, good schools, little snow and a lifestyle far more peaceful than that in bustling Vancouver across the strait.

Recently, however, Nanaimo's offerings have expanded a bit too much. Heroin and cocaine trafficking have increased dramatically here, and law-enforcement officials and political leaders say the situation is getting worse. The perpetrators, they say, are principally Vietnamese immigrants, who are peddling their wares to a younger and younger clientele.

Tensions are high in this city of 70,000. Many Vietnamese are angry that they are being blamed for a problem sown by only a few, and they fear reprisals from drug dealers if they name names. Some white residents are calling on the federal

government in Ottawa to enact new restrictions on immigration, effectively blaming Canada's open-door policy for their drug troubles. A magazine recently dubbed Nanaimo "Canada's heroin capital."

Mayor Gary R. Korpan doubts that his city is any worse than the major hubs of Toronto, Montreal or Vancouver. "You can never exactly estimate the extent of the problem," he said. "But more people are overdosing, more crimes are being committed by people who are strung out. If we don't take strong action now, it will get way out of control."

Nanaimo, founded more than 140 years ago by British coal miners, is a port city that has always had its share of illegal drugs. It is on two ferry lines from the mainland, and because it is an easy drive to the provincial capital of Victoria in the south or the lumber country up north, it serves well as a distribution center.

For years, the Hell's Angels motorcycle gang reputedly ran

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Horse Racing in Vietnam: When They Cry 'They're Off,' It's True

Andrew Beyer, the horse racing columnist of The Washington Post, spent the past month traveling in the Far East.

By Andrew Beyer
Washington Post Service
HO CHI MINH CITY — I pride myself

on the ability to handicap and bet in any country and any language. So when I concluded that Ha Ngoc Chau was the fastest horse in a field at Phu Tho racetrack, I confidently wagered 40,000 dong in exact.

Among more than 3,000 Vietnamese racing fans, mine was surely the only voice

known as Saigon is filled with uncertainty.

Vietnamese racehorses are a genetic mixture of French thoroughbred stock and Mongolian ponies, and most are so small that, by U.S. standards, they look as if they belong in an amusement park rather than at a track.

Races here are classified not by age or sex but according to the height of the horses, in order to give a fair chance to the smallest of the small. In the lowest classes the weight assignment for a horse may be as low as 64 pounds (29 kilograms); even the "big" horses carry no more than 96. Bill Shoemaker in his prime would have been too gargantuan to ride here.

Riders at Phu Tho must be tiny, so the jockey colony here is composed entirely of children, 14- and 15-year-olds who look, to

a Westerner, as if they might be 10 and don't have the strength to control a racehorse.

When the gate opens for races, at least one or two of the horses will be left 10 or 20 lengths behind. When the field turns into the stretch, everybody loses control; horses that had been near the rail drift beyond the middle of the track. The stretch run is reminiscent of little kids driving bumper cars; horses swerve right and left, banging into each other. As far as I could discern, however, Vietnamese horseplayers seemed to accept all of this as a part of the game.

Racing in Saigon dates back to 1893, when it was organized by French military officers. The present Phu Tho track was built in 1932, but its operations have frequently been disrupted by war. When the Japanese occupied the country in World

War II, they rounded up horses from stud farms and sent them home, dismantling the small breeding industry here.

Phu Tho did conduct racing during much of the "American war." Bill Nack, now the turf writer for Sports Illustrated, served in the U.S. Army here and he recalled: "I went to the races and the past performances were all in French and Vietnamese, so I looked at the horses in the paddock and Number Two was a stand-out. But when I tried to bet my piasters on him, they told me, 'All the tickets on Number Two are sold already. You can have Numbers Three, Five or Eight.' Naturally, Number Two won by a mile."

"Another time I started to go to Phu Tho but thought better of it — which was a

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President François Mitterrand meeting Tuesday with a wounded member of the commando team that stormed the hijacked Air France aircraft on Monday.

Kiosk

Poles to Review Killer's Sentence

WARSAW (AFP) — The Polish government has called for a special review of the decision to grant conditional freedom to a former secret policeman imprisoned for the 1984 murder of a well-known priest active in the Solidarity campaign.

The Reverend Jerzy Popieluszko was kidnapped by security policemen. He was put in the trunk of a police car and died, probably as a result of choking on his own blood. His body was thrown in a reservoir.

Grzegorz Piotrowski, 43, was sentenced in 1985 to 25 years in prison for his part in the killing. Two other secret policemen received lighter sentences and have been freed. Mr. Piotrowski's sentence was reduced to 15 years, allowing his release July 14, 2000.

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Newsstand Prices

Andorra.....9.00 FF	Luxembourg 60 L. Fr
Antilles.....11.20 FF	Morocco.....12 Dh
Caribbean.....1.40 CFA	Qatar.....11.20 FF
France.....9.00 FF	Reunion.....9.00 R.
Gabon.....9.00 CFA	Senegal.....9.00 CFA
Greece.....300 Dr.	Spain.....200 Ptas
Italy.....2.600 Lire	Tunisia.....1,000 Din.
Ivory Coast.....1.120 CFA	Turkey.....T.L. 35,000
Jordan.....J.D. 1,500	U.A.E.....8.50 Dirh
Lebanon.....US\$ 1.50	U.S. Mil. (Eur.) \$1.10

Dow Jones		Trib Index	
Up	28.26	Down	0.03%
	3861.69		112.35
The Dollar		Trib Index	
New York	1.5758	previous close	1.5793
DM	1.5455		1.5463
Pound	100.30		100.12
Yen	5.442		5.4525

In Croatia, Impasse at the Serb-Croat Divide

By John Pomfret

Washington Post Service

MRKOVIC, Croatia — Clad in a mustard-yellow Italian suit and looking as though he had come a long way since his prewar days as a mechanic, Miroslav Krstić smirked behind his huge beard when asked whether he believed the oil wells he manages in rebel Serbian territory would ever return to Croatian control.

"It's a joke," said Mr. Krstić, 34, who was recently appointed general manager of NIK, the oil company run by the Croatian Serbs.

"Our country is a reality," he said as secretaries scurried around his office and soldiers armed with automatic weapons patrolled outside. "We are only lacking one part — international recognition. We hope that comes soon."

Although a cease-fire has long since suspended the war in Croatia, there is little sign of a peaceful solution to bridge the deepest divide in the Balkans — between Croats and Serbs.

While Croatia and the Croatian Serbs have recently concluded a deal to restore some economic links and open a highway for the first time since fighting erupted in 1991, few United Nations

officials believe the agreement will lead to broader links.

As UN and international negotiators, backed by mediation from former President Jimmy Carter, focus their attention on resolving the 32-month-old war in Bosnia, Croatia and the Croatian Serbs, who occupy 27 percent of the country, remain in a tense stand-off.

Many observers predict that a resolution in Bosnia without sufficient attention to the tinderbox in Croatia would transport the war back here.

In recent weeks, Croatian and nationalist Serbian military leaders have exchanged threats. On Dec. 1, Croatian Army troops battled Serbian forces.

Several recent trips through Serb-held areas and Croatia proper revealed two worlds spinning rapidly apart. When it rains in Zagreb, umbrellas are opened. In Knin, the rebel capital, an AK-47 and a camouflage hood suffice.

Croatia, a nation of about 4 million, is throwing off its Communist past, privatizing industry and contemplating a future in the underbelly of Europe.

Serb-occupied Croatia, with about 500,000 people, is more like a giant armed camp, split into three pieces — an oil-rich swath of land along Croatia's border with Yugoslavia, a triangle bor-

dering Serb-held territory in northern Bosnia, and a long stretch of land parallel to Croatia's Dalmatian Coast. Everything, from NIK's oil wells to substantial wheat and meat production, goes to the army.

Phil Corwin, the chief of the UN civil affairs operation in eastern Slavonia, said of the Croatian Serbian world: "More pigs than people, more guns than pigs."

Colonel Kosta Novakovic, acting commander of Croatian Serbian forces in the city of Vukovar, was more precise: "We don't have a professional army, so all of our inhabitants are in the army. That is a big difference with Croatia."

Serbs began moving to Croatia in the 13th and 14th centuries. The migration intensified after the defeat of the Serbs in the famed battle of Kosovo Polje in 1389 at the hands of Ottoman Turkish forces.

Under a deal with the Croatian kings, the Serbian refugees were permitted to settle the rock-strewn border region between the Croatian kingdom and the Turks. As such they earned the sobriquet *Krajina*, or border, Serbs.

Famed for their toughness and ability to live in some of the harshest conditions

in Europe, the Serbs developed a reputation as good fighters and better thieves. In 1991, opposing Croatia's declaration of independence from Yugoslavia, they proclaimed themselves a state and with the Yugoslav Army's help, pushed Croatian forces back.

The Serbs appear to have a better idea of what they want than does the Croatian government. While Croatia continually demands the return of its occupied territory, its leaders still do not appear decided on the best course of action.

General Janko Bobetko, 74, commander of the Croatian Army, backed a military solution to reunite Croatia within its UN-recognized borders. But at the same time he also repeated Croatia's concerns that the West would criticize an attack.

"We're tired of waiting for the West to help us recover our territory," he said. "At a certain point, we've got to go it alone."

A UN military officer said General Bobetko's remarks reflected Croatia's fears that it was not strong enough to beat the Serbs, as well as a desire on the part of the Croatian leadership to be accepted by Europe.

Troops Beat Palestinian Official in West Bank

The Associated Press

AL KHADER, Israeli-Occupied West Bank — Israeli troops battling Palestinians protesting the expansion of a Jewish settlement knocked a Palestinian official unconscious on Tuesday.

"This is the graveyard of the peace process," said Saeb Erekat, minister of local government in the Palestinian self-rule authority, after he had regained consciousness.

"Rabin must decide whether to have the peace or the settlements," he said, referring to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. "We cannot accept this."

Four other people were injured in the scuffle, and 45 were arrested.

The confrontation between Mr. Erekat and the troops started when he joined a group of villagers trying to block Jewish settlers from uprooting olive saplings planted as a protest against expanding the settlement of Efrat.

Dozens of soldiers and border policemen surrounded the demonstrators and began beating them with their fists and rifle butts. Mr. Erekat was knocked to the ground and dragged away.

The chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Yasser Arafat, issued a statement condemning Israeli soldiers for working with settlers.

Leftist Israeli ministers supported stopping the expansion.

"You cannot negotiate with the Palestinians and at the same time create an impression that we are taking lands from the Palestinians and establishing settlements on them," said Environment Minister Yossi Sarid.

Deadly Year For the Press: 114 Deaths

Agence France-Press

BRUSSELS — At least 114 journalists have been killed in 1994 around the world, making it the deadliest year for reporters ever, Aidan White, secretary-general of the International Federation of Journalists, said Tuesday.

The Brussels-based federation this year has registered "at least 114 confirmed cases of violent death, some in gruesome circumstances," Mr. White said, adding that 15 other killings and reports of journalists missing were still being investigated.

A total of 12 journalists and 5 other members of news teams were also killed in accidents while doing on-the-spot reporting.

More than half of all journalists died while reporting on the ethnic war in Rwanda and on Algeria's violent showdown between Muslim fundamentalists and the military-backed government. 48 journalists from the ethnic Hutu and Tutsi died in the Rwanda conflict, while in Algeria 19 journalists were killed, according to a federation tally.

"But the Mafia and political terrorists also claimed their toll, notably in Russia and Latin America, where journalists have been brutally assassinated," Mr. White said.

Prospects for basic science in the 104th Congress are unclear. Support for science as a whole has generally not divided along partisan lines, but because not all the science subcommittees have new leaders yet, it is not evident how science and especially basic science might fare.

"The present scene is disturbing," said Edward E. David Jr., who served as President Richard Nixon's science adviser, later headed Exxon Research and Engineering and now runs his own consulting firm. Mr. David told a science policy symposium last winter that the struggle for control of the U.S. scientific agenda was between scientists on the one hand and "politicians and social engineers" on the other.

Beijing Acts to Protect Its Endangered Pandas

Reuters

BEIJING — China is to build six more nature reserves for its dwindling number of giant pandas next year and plans to improve five of the existing 11 panda protection zones, the Xinhua news agency said.

Eight hundred of China's 1,000 pandas will then live in reserves, Xinhua said. The five preserves are part of a project to "protect the giant panda and provide it with proper living space," initiated by the government in 1992.

WORLD BRIEFS

8 Criminals Are Executed in Beijing

BEIJING (AP) — Eight murderers, robbers and thieves were executed in Beijing on Tuesday, the official press reported.

The Beijing Evening News said the eight executions were for "particularly odious" crimes that had hurt society and angered the masses. The brief report listed the criminals' names and convictions but gave no details of their crimes.

The People's Public Security News said that by November the Beijing police had solved more than 10,000 crimes, captured more than 500 fugitives and confiscated "a batch" of firearms. No comparative figures with previous years were available, but anecdotal evidence suggests that crime is on the rise.

Neo-Nazi Suspects Held in Germany

HANAU, Germany (APF) — About 20 suspected neo-Nazis have been arrested in central and southern Germany recently in connection with several politically motivated offenses, the police here said Tuesday.

Police raids on suspects' homes in the central state of Hesse and in Bavaria in the south yielded stocks of weapons, ammunition and bomb-making equipment as well as propaganda material.

The suspects, most of them youths or teenagers, are believed to have been involved in attacks on hostels for asylum-seekers or on a synagogue.

U.S. Urged to Block Arms to Turkey

WASHINGTON (AP) — A major human rights group is asking Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher to block the sale of U.S. cluster bombs to Turkey on the grounds that they might be used against Kurdish civilians.

In a letter to Mr. Christopher released Tuesday, Human Rights Watch also urged tighter controls on future U.S. arms transfers to Turkey. It wants to see written guarantees that the arms would be used "only in NATO contingencies or with the prior approval of the U.S. government."

Human Rights Watch accused the Turks of attacking Kurdish villages in the guerrilla war. Alliant Technologies of suburban Minneapolis signed a contract June 21 to sell 493 CBU-87 cluster bombs to Turkey for an estimated \$7 million to \$8 million, and the export license awaits State Department approval.

League Rejects Berlusconi Appeal

ROME (Reuters) — The federalist Northern League, which last week toppled outgoing Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, on Tuesday rejected his calls for immediate general elections and said it wanted a nonpartisan government.

"We are all agreed on a solution which we have called 'the government of the president'; one that is open to all," said the League's institutional reforms minister, Francesco Speroni, after a meeting of the party's members of Parliament.

The apparent show of unity among the League members may be bad news for Mr. Berlusconi, who had hoped that about 40 rebels within the party would help him form a new government or back his calls for elections. Post and Telecommunications Minister Antonio Marano said the party had agreed on the need for a broadly based nonpartisan government to pass institutional reforms, such as changes in the voting system.

Chinese Strengthen Ties With Burma

RANGOON (Reuters) — Prime Minister Li Peng of China discussed border and economic issues with his Burmese counterpart on Tuesday on the second day of a visit aimed at sealing ties with the Burmese military regime.

Chinese officials said they were satisfied with the development of border trade with Burma, and the two governments urged the state and private sectors to expand trade links, a Chinese spokesman said.

Mr. Li and General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, which came to power in 1988 after suppressing pro-democracy protests, also discussed joint efforts to combat drug trafficking. China has supported Burma against foreign criticism for human rights abuses and is its main trading partner and arms supplier.

U.S. Troops Guard Haitian Army Site

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — U.S. soldiers and tanks occupied a main plaza Tuesday facing army headquarters, where four Haitians died in a firefight after former soldiers stormed the building to demand back pay.

Later Tuesday morning, U.S. soldiers used tear gas to disperse a crowd that attacked two houses near Haitian Army headquarters. Scores of youths and boys began tearing apart a two-story wooden home behind army headquarters, claiming that Haitian soldiers used it to hide guns. Local businessmen said soldiers had lived there and in an adjacent cement home.

When the youths began breaking into the second house, two U.S. soldiers used tear gas sprays to chase everyone away from both homes. During the night, U.S. Army soldiers deployed concertina wire across much of the huge Champ-de-Mars plaza to close off access to army headquarters.

For the Record

Walter Sisulu, 83, one of President Nelson Mandela's closest advisers, is seriously ill, the South African Press Association said Tuesday. Mr. Sisulu spent 26 years in prison with Mr. Mandela for plotting to overthrow the white minority government. (APF)

TRAVEL UPDATE

Iberia Pilots Cancel Planned Strike

MADRID (Reuters) — Pilots of Iberia Air Lines of Spain called off a threatened 12-day strike Tuesday after last-ditch talks with the company.

A joint statement from the pilots' union, SEPLA, and Iberia said the two sides had reached agreement on salary cuts that allowed the strike, due to start at midnight, to be called off. It did not give details of the agreement on salary cuts. The pilots had called the strike to protest a tough wage- and job-cuts plan designed to save the unprofitable airline from bankruptcy.

On Friday, drivers employed by the national rail network are due to strike and severely disrupt traffic before the New Year weekend. In Madrid on Wednesday and Friday, employees of the Metro plan to strike for two hours, and employees of the urban bus service are to strike Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Tourism has been banned in Egypt's desert regions for five years to protect endangered species of animals, Tuesday's editions of Al-Ahram daily reported. (APF)

Belgian truckers erected road blocks around the southern city of Mons to protest a highway tax. As many as 200 trucks were used for the protest in the home town of Transport Minister Elio Di Rupo, Belgian radio said.

Amsterdam will rebuild its cruise ship passenger terminal, a city spokesman said, adding that work on the 30 million guilder (\$16.3 million) project should start within 18 months. (APF)

2 Bosnian Troops Hurt in Bihac Despite Truce

The Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Two government soldiers were wounded in fighting in northwestern Bosnia despite United Nations efforts to broaden a cease-fire, officials said Tuesday.

The UN commander for Bosnia, Sir Michael Rose, met the Bosnian vice president, Ejup Ganic, and made plans to visit the troubled northwestern Bihac region.

Continued attacks on government forces in the region by rebel Serbs from Croatia and renegade Muslim forces have threatened a truce that took effect Saturday.

During a half-hour of inconclusive talks with General Rose, Mr. Ganic said he had insisted that Croatian Serbian troops be withdrawn from the Bihac enclave.

Mr. Ganic said he had reiterated to General Rose a Bosnian government demand that UN peacekeepers take control of the border between Croatia and Bihac to stop infiltration by rebel Croatian Serbs and allied Muslim separatists fighting government troops.



'TIS THE SEASON FOR A DEAL — A line of bargain-hunters waiting in front of an Oxford Street store on Tuesday in London as merchants throughout Britain started the country's annual tradition of post-Christmas sales.

Basic Science Losing Out to Bottom Line in U.S.

By Boyce Rensberger

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Of all the forms of research, the most misunderstood by the public and by politicians is basic science, scientists say. But it is the kind of research that built the knowledge base underlying all the practical benefits that society has realized from technology.

And yet, it faces repeated challenges as a luxury the United States can no longer afford. As recently as last year's congressional budget-making process, a Senate science committee told the National Science Foundation, which was established to support basic science, to divert more of its money to applied science, which promises immediate practical results.

In response, numerous scientists tried to explain that without basic science to enlarge the body of knowledge, science

cannot continue to produce practical benefits.

"The bottom line has always been that the more we understand the nature of the physical universe, the better we are able to use matter and energy in useful ways," said Robert Hazen, a scientist at the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

Basic science, which also goes by such names as fundamental research and pure science, is the type of research aimed simply at learning more about how nature works, be it the insides of stars and atoms or the behavior of cells and proteins. Its directions are dictated chiefly by what scientists find interesting.

This kind of research, sometimes called curiosity-driven science, can appear to be the most indulgent of luxuries: getting a government grant to do whatever you want to do. Ask most basic researchers why they work long hours for low pay, and they will tell you how excit-

ing it is to probe the most intimate workings of the natural world and to discover something that nobody ever knew.

For several decades, this is exactly what thousands of American scientists have been doing. They are supported by tax dollars not to work specifically on any of society's problems or even to develop a product that will make money, but to pursue their own curiosity. In 1993, the government spent an estimated \$16.5 billion for this purpose, most of the money being disbursed by the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

In the past, such expenditures prompted only occasional challenges. A decade ago, for example, then-Senator William Proxmire, Democrat of Wisconsin, made a sarcastic ritual of giving "Golden Fleece" awards to scientists who had won grants for research projects whose titles seemed frivolous.

In recent years, many scientists say the challenge to basic research has become more threatening. The Clinton administration's science budgets, for example, have given huge boosts to industrial technology programs but only cost-of-living increases to basic research.

Last year, the Senate Appropriations subcommittee that deals with the National Science Foundation issued a report criticizing the agency for not having clear enough practical goals for its grants and said that if the foundation did not move more to practical research, "future federal R&D budgets should instead be allocated more generously to agencies such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NASA, the national energy labs, or the National Institutes of Health, all of whom seem poised to pursue critical technologies with entrepreneurial vigor and enthusiasm."

Perhaps the most visible challenge to basic science came last year from that subcommittee's chairman, Senator Barbara A. Mikulski, Democrat of Maryland, when she said the government should divert more of its science funding to what she called "strategic science." Because she seemed to mean applied science, her statement threw scientific leaders into pandemonium. The National Science Foundation was created to support fundamental science and has traditionally been a powerful defender of the concept.

Moreover, last year's cancellation of the largest fundamental science project in history, the Superconducting Super Collider, though motivated by huge cost overruns, was perceived by many in the scientific community as a sign that Congress was prepared to sacrifice fundamental research.

Prospects for basic science in the 104th Congress are unclear. Support for science as a whole has generally not divided along partisan lines, but because not all the science subcommittees have new leaders yet, it is not evident how science and especially basic science might fare.

"The present scene is disturbing," said Edward E. David Jr., who served as President Richard Nixon's science adviser, later headed Exxon Research and Engineering and now runs his own consulting firm. Mr. David told a science policy symposium last winter that the struggle for control of the U.S. scientific agenda was between scientists on the one hand and "politicians and social engineers" on the other.

Karl Schiller, Former German Minister, Dies at 83

The Associated Press

HAMBURG, Germany — Karl Schiller, 83, a Social Democrat whose tenure as economics minister in the 1960s helped establish his leftist party as a responsible partner in West German politics, died of abdominal hemorrhaging Monday, his doctors said Tuesday.

He had been hospitalized since Nov. 17.

A professor of economics at the University of Hamburg, Mr. Schiller became economics minister in 1966 when the So-

cial Democrats joined the so-called Grand Coalition headed by the conservative Christian Democrats.

In the following Social Democratic government of Willy Brandt, Mr. Schiller took the additional post of finance minister in 1971, becoming known as the "super minister" until his 1972 resignation over policy differences.

Mr. Schiller directed a policy of pump-priming that helped pull the West German economy

out of its first severe postwar recession and, dealing with a crisis in the coal industry, moved the industry toward private ownership rather than to the socialist goal of nationalization.

Cardinal Pavan, Key Figure in 2d Vatican Council, at 91

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) — Cardinal Pietro Pavan, 91, an important figure at the Second Vatican Council, died Monday, the Italian Catholic

newspaper Avvenire said Tuesday.

Cardinal Pavan helped shape Vatican positions on social issues, wrote an important church document on religious freedom and was a leading contributor to the Council, which met from 1962 to 1965.

The Council approved major changes in liturgy, such as allowing masses in local languages and making commitments to greater dialogue with non-Catholics and non-Christians.

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THE AMERICAS / Privatize Government? A Bold Idea's Mixed Success

By David E. Sanger

WASHINGTON — The Democrats have spent 60 years increasing the size and power of the federal government, but as President Bill Clinton looks for ways to pay for his middle-class tax cuts he is turning to a tactic drawn from the Republican playbook: selling off some government properties and functions and turning a number of agencies into private corporations.

The strategy would gladden the hearts of politicians with whom Mr. Clinton shares little ideological kinship, including former President Ronald Reagan, who tried privatization and largely failed, and Margaret Thatcher, who as prime minister of Britain was far more successful at turning government agencies into private enterprises.

But while such proposals have a nice ring in Washington these days, the fact is that government experience with bringing market discipline to bureaucracy has been mixed.

For every success story like Fannie Mae, the Federal mortgage underwriter that ran a profit of nearly \$1.9

billion last year and paid nearly \$1 billion in federal taxes, there is one which chronically loses money.

Among the plans Mr. Clinton unveiled last week are some that have been talked about for a while, among them turning the Federal Aviation Administration into a government-chartered corporation.

Sometimes, however, government savings from privatization have proved illusory, particularly when a federal agency has been turned into a corporate monopoly, sheltered from the rigors and risks of competition. In some cases, privatization has meant simply moving an agency off the government books, with an unstated presumption that some kind of federal bailout will follow if it sinks.

"There is privatization, and then there is real privatization," said Donald F. Kettl, of the University of Wisconsin who wrote a Brookings Institution study on the subject. "Sometimes government functions are turned over to the private sector lock, stock and barrel, in hopes that will create real efficiency. In other cases, like Amtrak or the post office, we've shown we

can't let them go completely on their own, and we certainly can't let them go under."

Amtrak, a grouping of former railroad companies that were unified by the government in 1970 in an effort to save the nation's inter-city rail passenger system, faces a deficit of \$195 million this year, even with federal subsidies of nearly \$1 billion.

The Postal Service lost \$914 million in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 15, nearly three times the loss of the previous year, although its defenders point out that Congress still requires it to deliver mail to every small village and town, no matter how remote, at a standard rate—a burden not faced by the United Parcel Service, for example.

Some of the Clinton administration's privatization ideas are indisputable money-savers. For example, the president is reviving a decades-old plan to sell or lease a navy-run oil field that dates from World War I, when admirals insisted that the government must pump its own battleship fuel.

Savings are not the chief motivation, however, in the case of the aviation agency the agency that directs the country's commercial and private air

traffic. (The agency is hardly a drain on general revenue: it is financed by a 10 percent federal tax on airline tickets.)

Instead, as the Clinton administration acknowledges, the plan to privatize the aviation agency is really intended to free air controllers from federal budget rules that have condemned them to technological antiquity. Under those rules, the purchase of a new computer system or an overhaul of airport radar systems requires pushing a huge expenditure through Congress, with the whole project paid for in the first year. The inevitable result is that purchases are delayed, and then delayed again.

Once it became a corporation, however, the aviation agency would be freed to dip into private capital. It could get banks or other investors to finance a technological overhaul, then pay back the debt over a number of years while depreciating its investment along the way.

But even advocates of the idea concede that not all current agency functions could be divorced from the government. Relinquishing to private operators the agency's safety tasks —

the licensing of pilots, for instance, or the certification of new aircraft — would be politically untenable.

Then, too, there would always be the need for a federal bailout if the new corporation were in danger of failing. Passengers have an alternative should an airline go bankrupt, but the government would have no choice but to keep the air controllers in business.

Washington's biggest commercial success story is the Federal National Mortgage Association, or Fannie Mae, which was privatized by the Johnson administration more than a quarter-century ago.

It competes for its main business — the packaging of mortgages for sale to investors — with another government spinoff, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

Today, Fannie Mae is remarkably profitable, and its top executives are doing far better for themselves than if they were serving in the government.

"What makes it work, though, is the market competition, which forces us to be relentlessly efficient," said Fannie Mae's spokesman, John Buckley. "That is hard to replicate in government."

In Jail, Simpson Seems to Have a Lock on Celebrity Comfort

Los Angeles Times Service

LOS ANGELES — Through a combination of court orders and administrative decisions, O.J. Simpson is receiving benefits that most other inmates in Los Angeles County Men's Central Jail can only dream of, interviews and court records show.

He is allowed to shower more often, sleep later before going to court and make use of more than 10 additional hours outside his cell each week to stretch his legs, ride an exercise bike provided for his use, talk on the phone or watch TV.

But the biggest difference is in the area that prisoners care about the most — contact with outsiders. As he left the jail recently after charges were dropped, a former gang member, Derrick Nelson, said that

he was allowed only an hour a week in the regular jail visiting room, where he was locked in a cage in the midst of as many as 240 other inmates talking to friends and relatives across a glass barrier and over phones.

Mr. Simpson, meanwhile, has been allowed unlimited non-contact visits with his girlfriend, Paula Barbieri, and others while sitting at a desk in a private glass booth located in the jail's less crowded attorney-visiting room.

Not only has Mr. Simpson recently been given exclusive use of the attorney visiting area on weekends, his arrangements also allowed him to see outsiders on Christmas, when jail-house visiting was suspended for all other inmates.

What appears to be a double

standard has some in the criminal justice system grumbling. But in a recent interview, Sheriff Sherman Block said any apparent favoritism was geared to the smooth operation of the jail. "Those things we are doing that seem to give O.J. special treatment are being done for our benefit," he said.

Putting Simpson into the general population would create chaos because of his celebrity status, he said, and would open him to attacks by any inmate with designs of grabbing a piece of the spotlight in the highly publicized case.

Records show that keeping Mr. Simpson in jail just through October had already cost Mr. Block's department more than \$232,000, much of it for deputy overtime.

"I get letters all the time from

citizens out there who complain and ask why he is getting special treatment," Mr. Block said. "Now, everything else he gets outside of these visits is what everybody else gets, but in his case it's a one-on-one basis. He eats the same food as the rest of the inmates eat but instead of going to the dining room, it's brought to him on a tray."

Robert L. Shapiro, a Simpson lead attorney, bristles at the suggestion that his client is getting favored treatment. He said he had asked for and been granted after-hours visitation rights because of the extraordinary complexity of the fast-moving case, which has Mr. Simpson and his defense team tied up in court during the normal visiting time for attorneys at the jail.

He added that Mr. Simpson

may be worse off than other high-security inmates because he is being kept in isolation — where he is monitored via video camera, has little contact with guards and prisoners and is not taken to the jail roof for exercise.

Mr. Simpson is the only occupant in a seven-cell wing of the unit that is reserved for high-security inmates such as accused drug dealers, bad cops and ranking gang members.

Mr. Simpson, who has pleaded not guilty to murdering his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Lyle Goldman, on June 12, is not the first inmate to receive individual attention in the jail. The mass murderer Charles Manson and the kidnappers William and Emily Harris were isolated, as was Sirhan Sirhan, Robert F. Kennedy's assassin.

But interviews and records indicate that in general Mr. Simpson is enjoying some important benefits afforded to few, if any, other inmates.

For example, Deputy George Ducoulombier, a Sheriff's Department spokesman, said Mr. Block decided to give Mr. Simpson additional "freeway

time" — the period during which an inmate can roam the corridor outside his cell — based on complaints from the former athlete about an undisclosed medical problem. With that extra time, about 14 hours a week compared with up to four hours for most inmates, comes more opportunities to watch TV, talk on the phone or take a shower, the spokesman said.

Mr. Block allowed an exception to jail policy against contraband when he permitted Mr. Simpson to have football cards in his cell. Mr. Ducoulombier said, Mr. Simpson was honoring a pre-existing contract calling for him to autograph 5,000 cards as part of a profit-making venture.

Although some attorneys say they admire Mr. Simpson and his lawyers for their gumption in extracting more "civilized" treatment from the jail, they lament the fact that their less wealthy and less prominent clients cannot do the same.

For example, Mr. Simpson won a court order guaranteeing him a hot meal when he returns from court after dinner is served in jail, authorities said.



GAY ADOPTION — Gailan, 4, enjoying a hug from one of his adoptive parents, Ross Lopton, as his other parent, Luis Lopton, watches. The couple won custody in Seattle after the boy's mother was found to have neglected him.

Away From Politics

- Edward J. Leary, the man accused of firebombing a New York subway train on Dec. 21 is suffering too badly from his burns to be arraigned on attempted murder charges this week, his lawyer said. (AP)
- A 10-foot inflatable boat capsized during an outing on Tomales Bay north of San Francisco, killing a mother and her 10-year-old son. They had ignored advisories to stay out of the water because of dangerous conditions. (AP)
- An Iowa woman survived five days in the Arizona desert on three oranges while she wandered in search of help for her dying husband after their pickup became stuck in the sand in a remote area. Pauline Herink, in her 60s, finally found help but was too late to save her husband, Donald, 64. (AP)
- A car carrying five teenagers to a mall in Brewster, New York, collided with another vehicle, killing four of the teenagers and a 54-year-old woman in the other car. (AP)

'Serene' Spy Says CIA Believes He's Holding Out

By Walter Pincus

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The confessed spy Aldrich Ames says he is being held in solitary confinement and that the CIA does not believe he has told all he knows because he acts "serene" and not like "a guy who's going to spend the rest of his life in jail."

In his first televised interview, with CNN, Mr. Ames discussed his life in the federal prison at Allenwood, Pennsylvania, but at the same time continued to play down the secrets he sold to Moscow over almost nine years as the most important agent inside the premier spy service in the United States.

A 31-year veteran CIA counterintelligence officer, Mr. Ames delivered sensitive documents to the Soviet KGB beginning in 1985 that allowed Moscow to identify dozens of U.S. and allied agents. At least 10 of them subsequently were killed, and others vanished or were imprisoned.

After his arrest last February, Mr. Ames negotiated a plea agreement with the Justice Department that required him to tell all he knew about his own and Russian intelligence activities in return for limiting the sentence to be given his wife, Rosario, who had been arrested with him.

The director of Central Intelligence, R. James Woolsey Jr., said recently that he does not believe Mr. Ames has yet told the truth about all his activities despite the recent decision to

give Rosario Ames the minimum, a five-year sentence.

In the interview, Mr. Ames said one of his CIA debriefers told him that one of the reasons "we don't believe" you is "because you don't act like a guy who's going to spend the rest of his life in jail." Mr. Ames said the debriefer used the word "serene" to describe him.

As he had in earlier press interviews, Mr. Ames told CNN he did not think he harmed national security by revealing the names of Soviet KGB and military officers who worked for the CIA. They did not provide "significant political information," Mr. Ames said.

He did admit, however, that some of the agents he exposed had turned over "military or technological development information," but that was, he said, "very spotty."

According to court documents and CIA officials, Mr. Ames's information allowed the Soviet and Russian governments to close down more than 100 intelligence operations. Among the agents he exposed were two Soviet military leaders who for more than 10 years were among the most important sources of Soviet political and military intelligence information for the U.S. and British governments.

Mr. Ames talked about the impact on him of prison life, complaining that he has already spent four months in "administrative detention in the 'hole.'" That was "a lot longer" than Bureau of Prisons' policy, he

said, which is "about two weeks."

He called his life sentence "the next step from capital punishment" but said for his own peace of mind he had to live in the belief that one day he would be a free man. He added that he

has no "scenario or realistic expectation" that his sentence would ever be changed.

"Forever is a long time," Mr. Ames said, who is 32. "And at my age, forever — well, forever may — may not be such a long time."

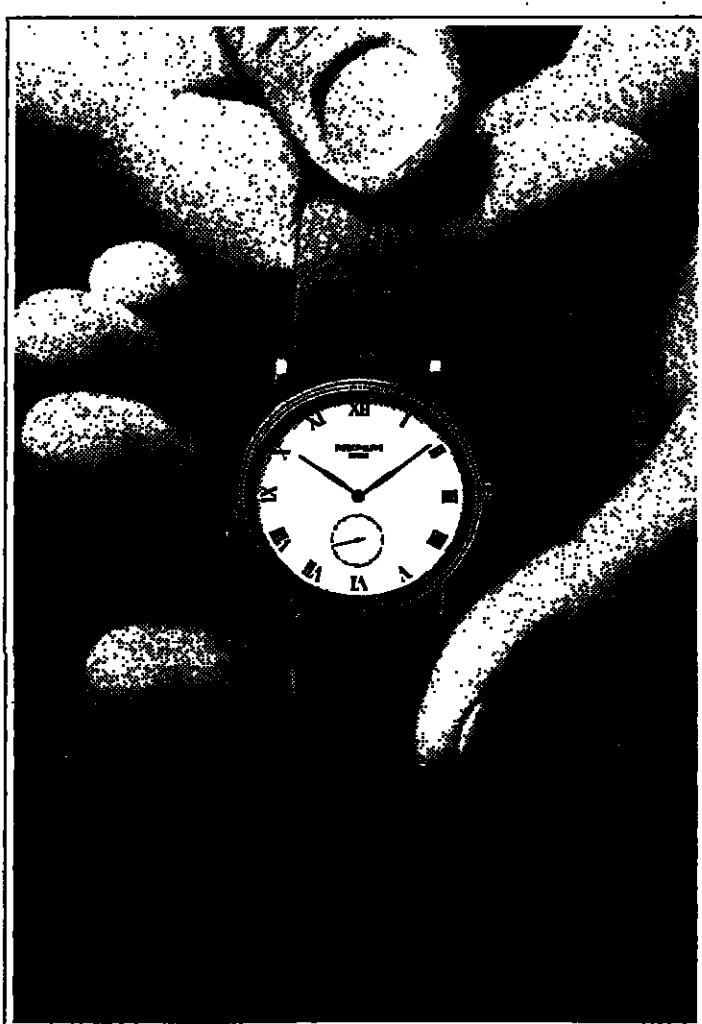
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Democracies in Need

There was at least one report issued this month that contained some good news. Freedom House, a New York-based organization that releases an annual study of how democracy and basic liberties are faring around the world, found that 114 countries — the largest number in history — were democracies, defined as places having "elected governments with a framework of basic representative institutions." Of these 114, all but 37 were not only democratic in structure but also guaranteed the essential human and political rights that make a country genuinely free.

But there was also bad news: that many of the emerging democracies are fragile indeed. The 37 democracies that the group rated only "partly free" included countries beset with "interethnic and interreligious strife" and with widespread corruption, or lacking in effective civic institutions, including "a truly free press and independent judiciary." The outstanding case of a country that is formally democratic but unable to protect the rights of its citizens — or the citizens themselves — was Bosnia.

In stressing the fragility of many of the

new democracies, the report made a useful point that the U.S. Congress needs to consider as it begins what will be a very difficult debate on the foreign aid program. Many of the nations striving hard to build democracy find themselves not only strapped for cash but also lacking in some of the basic institutions of civil society that need to be strong if democracy is to remain strong. The report suggests that the foreign aid debate ought to take into account the need "to strengthen and solidify fragile democratic institutions by rigorously redirecting economic assistance to countries that are playing by the democratic rules of the game."

Rather modest amounts of aid can in fact do a great deal to help build the infrastructure of democracy.

Of course America cannot, on its own, build democracy everywhere. The ultimate success or failure of democratic institutions depends on the citizens of the democracies themselves. But America surely has both a practical and moral interest in democracy's expansion. It is an interest that needs to be recognized in the coming battles over foreign aid.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

Military Preparedness

Republicans in Congress are taking dead aim at the Clinton administration's defense budget. One target sure to draw their fire is military "readiness." The Republicans believe that the Pentagon has provided too little money to get the troops in combat trim. Just how ready are the armed forces and how much more needs to be done? As it happens, the answers are not as simple or as bleak as the Republicans would have it.

Representative Floyd Spence of South Carolina, who will chair the House Armed Services Committee, last month accused the administration of exhibiting "the classic symptoms of denial" when it contended that U.S. forces are ready than they have ever been. The view from the field is "disturbingly different," he said, citing the low readiness ratings of three army divisions — the 1st Cavalry, the 2d Armored and the 24th Mechanized Infantry. Defense Secretary William Perry quickly agreed that the army, at least, was not as ready as it should be.

A few days later President Bill Clinton said he would add \$25 billion over six years to his defense budget, much of it earmarked for readiness. No sooner had he done so, however, than Eric Schmidt of The New York Times discovered that commanders of the divisions cited by Mr. Spence had painted an overly gloomy view from the field to help the army claim a larger share of the defense budget.

By most measures, the Pentagon is already spending far more on readiness and the armed forces are readier than they have been in a long time. The operations and maintenance part of the Pentagon budget, which pays for readiness, is currently \$93 billion — twice what it was in 1980 and one-third more than in 1985, at the height of the Reagan buildup. At the same time, the armed forces are roughly 25 percent smaller. With fewer troops to train and fewer weapons to maintain, there is much more readiness money to go around.

That money is yielding results. The Pentagon sorts units into five categories from C-1, fully combat ready, to C-5, in overhaul. According to a Congressional

Budget Office study, the readiness of active air force and navy air units equaled the late 1980s highs. Other indicators are at record highs. To describe this as verging on "a hollow glow," the study concludes, is "misleading."

That does not mean that every unit is in fighting trim. By the same token, a low rating does not mean that a unit is unfit, says Lawrence Korb, who was a Pentagon official during the Reagan years. The 1st Cavalry, for instance, can be classified marginally ready even if it is fully manned and among the world's best equipped but has not been able to train for a month because funds for that purpose have been used for troops in Haiti. Readiness, in short, is only one aspect of what most people mean when they talk about being prepared to wage war.

Categorizing units is a subjective judgment, which can be influenced by the desire for a bigger budget. A similarly subjective judgment is whether every unit should be in top fighting form and whether it is worth paying to assure that.

Take Mr. Spence's three "unready" army divisions. The 2d Armored and the 24th Infantry are heavy divisions — the sort that were designed to wage tank warfare with the Red Army. Since lighter and more mobile units make better sense today, the army could shortchange both divisions this year and bring them up to par next year. It turns out, however, that the army plans to demobilize the 2d Armored and the 1st Cavalry as part of a force reduction to 10 divisions from the current 12. Keeping them at full readiness may be a waste of money.

If the object is to have the armed forces in fighting trim, downsizing them makes sense. U.S. strength is far greater than is required to meet potential threats. Why waste money supporting every army division, navy carrier battle group and air force wing when reductions would improve the readiness of the remaining forces? In any case, readiness requires painstaking attention, not political and budgetary grandstanding, by members of Congress or by military commanders.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Rethinking Farm Policy

President Bill Clinton is said to be about to nominate defeated Kansas Democratic Representative Dan Glickman to be secretary of agriculture. It is not clear what instructions Mr. Clinton will give the new secretary, whoever he chooses. The administration has no clear farm policy, and agriculture is a subject about which the president in two years in office has said very little. But a text exists, a kind of guide to the issues, that the president and his nominee might both profitably consult. It comes from the Republican chairman-to-be of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Richard Lugar.

For a combination of reasons, some philosophical, others having to do with cost, Senator Lugar has decided it's time to ask some fundamental questions about the farm programs. He has compiled a list in preparation for next year's hearings. These are not ordinary politician's questions. Rather they are of a kind that people in Mr. Lugar's circumstances are most often careful not to ask, like whether the programs soon to be under his jurisdiction serve a useful purpose any longer, do more harm than good, can be justified in terms of cost.

Examples: "Why are acreage reduction programs sound public or fiscal policy

when they require farmers to idle productive land and spread their fixed costs over fewer acres, negatively affecting their ability to turn a profit?" "Would our nation run a serious risk of losing its abundant food supply if commodity programs did not exist?" "Why should taxpayers subsidize farmers when they do not subsidize small businesses, which have a failure rate hovering around 50 percent?" "What is the rationale for subsidizing some crops but not others? Is there evidence that producers of non-subsidized crops have prospered less?" "What is the rationale for transferring public funds from taxpayers, most of whom have moderate incomes, to all farmers, including those whose incomes... are substantially above... average?" "Why is subsidized crop insurance and disaster relief appropriate for agriculture, and not for other sectors of the economy?" "Why should there be any government involvement in the production of tobacco?" "Why should sugar production be protected and imports restricted if the result is higher sugar prices for American consumers?" "They are good questions all, and the next secretary ought to be able, on behalf of the president, to answer them."

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

Vietnam: An Emerging Power With Security Fears

By Gerald Segal

HANOI — Vietnam, a Communist-ruled state that once terrified the non-Communist states of the Association of South East Asian Nations, is set to join ASEAN in the new year. Hanoi's anticipation is marred by concerns about diminished status and the future of regional and great power politics in East Asia.

Worries begin with an awareness of a quasi-colonialist attitude on the part of some ASEAN states toward Vietnam. The proud Vietnamese, who have defeated French, American and Chinese armed forces in living memory, bridle at the tendency of ASEAN states to talk down to Hanoi. Vietnamese worry about exploitation by ASEAN corporations.

Vietnamese know that it is of primary importance to establish a normal relationship with the United States.

They fear relative neglect of Vietnam's security concerns about China by an organization that avowedly seeks to play down worries about an aggressive China. Vietnam feels that by virtue of its history, its population (second largest in ASEAN) and its economic potential, it should be taken more seriously as a mid-

dle power. Its officials note that ASEAN accounts for only 17 percent of total foreign direct investment in Vietnam, compared with higher figures for Taiwan and Hong Kong. Thus there are signs that, even before Vietnam has formally joined ASEAN, it is looking for ways to improve its position beyond ASEAN.

Vietnam finds itself in Southeast Asia, but it apparently fits better with North-east Asians. Japan and South Korea account for 10 percent of foreign direct investment in Vietnam, and the figure is set to grow much faster when Korean and especially Japanese businessmen get their projects under way. Japan and South Korea also show a far more robust attitude to the potential of Chinese military power than does ASEAN.

We can expect a developing security dialogue between Vietnam and the North-east Asians. At the same time, Vietnamese officials expect to have difficulties with the more passive ASEAN states who counsel caution at all costs.

Vietnam recognizes the need to avoid antagonizing China. Hence its low-key relationship with Taiwan, despite the fact that Taiwan is the largest source of foreign direct investment in Vietnam and shares deep worries about China.

Vietnam's search for a wider role

leads it, like South Korea and Japan, to place greater stress than ASEAN states on good relations with Europe. It has not escaped Vietnam's attention that Europe accounts for 20 percent of foreign direct investment. Europeans are anxious to avoid the mistakes they made in other East Asian states; they are taking an active interest in Vietnamese development, and did so before it was fashionable.

France, Britain and the Netherlands lead the way. German business has yet to wake up to the Vietnamese potential, but it will soon do so and thereby give a major boost to the European role.

Vietnam does not expect Europe to play a major role in easing security concerns, although its officials are pleasantly surprised that the Europeans have returned without many hang-ups from their colonial experience. Vietnamese also know that when they are ready and rich enough to afford military modernization, France and Britain are likely to play an active part in providing military equipment and technological assistance.

Vietnam's interest in closer ties with the West is also manifest in an obvious desire to strengthen relations with Canada and Australia. Both have large ethnic Vietnamese communities and have led the effort in the Asia-Pacific zone to develop mechanisms for regional security. Both can be partners with Vietnam in more active military cooperation, in part

as a way to make it easier to draw Vietnam closer to the United States.

It is of primary importance that Vietnam establish a normal relationship with the United States. Both countries are hampered by conservative forces at home from pursuing their obvious mutual interest in closer relations. Much progress has been made toward normalization, and hotels are certainly full of visiting emotional Americans.

But Vietnam knows that much more needs to be done to attract American investment and entice the United States into helping deter China should Beijing reignite its drive to control the disputed South China Sea.

Vietnamese officials laugh with a mixture of intrigue and unease about the notion of the United States and Vietnam exploring common strategic concerns. Yet they know that in the end, if Vietnam — or other East Asians, for that matter — is going to have a chance to stand tall as a middle power in the new regional balance, it will have to articulate and advance policies that help attract the United States. Not an easy task with the new Republican America.

The writer is a senior fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, in London, and director of Britain's Pacific Asia Initiative. He contributed this comment to The International Herald Tribune.

Cambodia: Friends Can Help Halt the Slide Down to Tyranny

By William Shawcross

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia's fragile polity is again in jeopardy. The country is still far from what it has been under any Cambodian regime in the past 25 years, but 19 months after the United Nations successfully organized elections and 15 months after a new coalition government pledged to democracy took office, the strains are becoming deadly serious.

One of the clearest signs of trouble is the government's current attempt to muzzle the free press — an indication that it is in danger of reverting to traditional forms of authoritarianism.

As a result of the United Nations' 1991-1993 administration, Cambodia has had one of the freest presses in Asia. It has been unlicensed and, admittedly, in some cases unprofessional. Anyone can publish a paper. Journalists can and do accuse ministers of being dogs, and rats, or propose violent ends for officials. It is not nice for the prime minister's wife to read that she, too, is a pig.

But at the same time many newspapers have run important exposés of corruption and have revealed, for example, the way in

which Thai and Malaysian companies have profited from corrupt deals. Such exposés seem even more unpopular with ministers than the personal abuse.

Newspapers are constantly being threatened by the government and suspended or closed down. Foreign correspondents have been threatened and expelled. Much worse, outspoken and responsible journalists have been murdered. On June 11, Thon Chham Mongkol, an editor who had repeatedly reported on corruption, was found dying in a main street of the city. The government said it was a motorcycle accident.

On Sept. 7, Noun Chan, editor of the popular paper Voice of Khmer Youth, was shot dead in broad daylight in the center of Phnom Penh by two men on a motorbike. The minister of the interior denied rumors that the murder was officially condoned.

On Dec. 8, Chan Dara, a newspaper reporter investigating illegal timber sales by the army, was shot dead.

Now the cabinet has submitted a draft press law to the Na-

tional Assembly. This draconian measure would impose criminal penalties on editors and journalists. If passed, the law would prevent any criticism or even examination of the government. The worst aspect of the bill is its imposition of criminal rather than civil penalties. Article 10 allows a jail sentence of up to a year for defamation.

Article 13 makes it a crime, punishable by up to three years imprisonment and a fine of 10 million riel (\$40,000), to "violate the King." This vague offense could mean anything.

It is worth noting that King Sihanouk himself, who is now in Beijing undergoing treatment for cancer, has repeatedly pledged himself to defend press freedom, and is thought to be opposed to any such restriction — indeed, to much of this draft law.

Article 14 makes it a crime, punishable by up to 18 months in prison, to publish anything that "humiliates or degrades" public officials or organs. Again this means anything that the government does not like. In many ways the law is far

fiercer than that which the old Communist regime had imposed. Its penalties are disproportionate. The fines it proposes would close many newspapers. Quite apart from destroying the press, it could also prohibit any nongovernmental organization from issuing a press release pointing out shortcomings in the country.

The first prime minister, Prince Ranariddh, has said that it is better to have the law than more dead journalists. That should not be the choice.

Pen Samithy, editor of one of the most successful papers, Rasmee Kampuchea, argues that the country needs a press law, but not this one: "We must force the press to respect the ethics of journalism. If the law forces them to respect more than this — a government leader who doesn't want certain facts printed, for example — it is not good."

The bill is to be debated by the assembly, which should amend it. Better still, the cabinet could withdraw the draft and produce a new version that does not breach the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that Cambodia signed while the United Nations were here.

The donor governments — of which the United States, France and Australia are the most influential — have been strangely silent on this key issue. Yet they have great influence. The royal government depends absolutely on foreign aid. The donors should make clear that they cannot persuade their own electorates to underwrite a government that tramples on the basic rights and covenants that the United Nations intervened in Cambodia, at great cost, to restore and guarantee.

In Phnom Penh there is now no opposition. (In a sense, King Sihanouk is in opposition to much of what his government does, but he is rarely at home.) The press is the only control on government excess. The Cambodian government has a responsibility to preserve press freedom. Those countries that support and sustain the government have an equal responsibility to persuade it to do so. Otherwise all the gains of the UN administration will be lost.

The writer is chairman of Article 19, the International Center Against Censorship, based in London. He contributed this comment to The Washington Post.

The Story This Year's Toys Tell Is About an American Cultural Ruin

By Tom Engelhardt

NEW YORK — The Christmas season might seem an odd time to assess the debate over multiculturalism and American history. And the American child's floor, littered with crumpled wrapping paper and Mighty Morphin Power Rangers, might seem an odd place from which to do so.

But children's floors, and the games played on them, have always offered clues about the kinds of stories that really captivate young minds. And this week's floor provides a solace for neither multiculturalists nor their opponents.

In the early 1950s, my childhood years, boys — and some girls — spent hours acting out tales of American battle with generic fighting figures: a crew of cowboys and bluecoats to defeat the Indians and win the West; a bag or two of olive-green marines to storm the beaches of Iwo Jima. If ours was a sanguinary tale of

warfare against savages in which pleasure came out of the barrel of a gun, it was also a recognizable part of an American story that could be found in any neighborhood movie theater.

There, we cheered as an enemy who looked nothing like us dropped in his tens, hundreds, thousands before our blazing guns, proof of the triumph of a distinctly American goodness.

On floors nationwide, we were left alone, without apparent instruction, to reinvent such episodes in American history. Who was good and who was bad, who could be killed and under what conditions, were all an accepted part of a collective childhood that drew strength from post-World War II adult culture.

As the Cold War progressed, America's faith in manifest destiny was slowly and unconsciously

relegated to the world of the child. That American children should have inherited a national tale of battle triumph, just as European children had once inherited rituals of knightly battle long discarded by adults, was not in itself extraordinary.

The surprise was that after a 300-year trip the story would, in barely a generation, pass wholly into the realm of children and then out of American society altogether.

When the original GI Joe action figure was furloughed by its maker (Hasbro) in the wake of the Vietnam War, childhood war play left the American century and planet earth for good.

To watch a shopping cart down the endless aisles of Toys "R" Us is to experience the story that has resulted, one unrecognizable from anyone's version of American history — or any history at all.

No children in 1995 will defeat Geronimo or refight the Battle of the Bulge. Nor will toy marines burst into Iraqi bunkers made of Legos. No modern-day Custer will lead a last stand in a mini-Mogadishu. No toy GIs will patrol a Post-apocalyptic world of wooden blocks.

But while the national story of battle triumph has disappeared along with the toys that animated it, the replacement figures do not come from the multiculturalist's playbook, either.

On no floors this week will Native American warriors defeat the cavalry, or enslaved African-Americans rise up against their Southern masters, or toy Rosies rivet up a storm. Yet there will still be battles galore — in outer, or inner, or alternate space, or on some future robotized earth.

The powerful Red Dragon Thunderzord will mix it up with Lord Zedd's Evil Space Aliens. Dr. Cyber, the evil Cyber scientist of the Skeleton Warriors ("They're Bad to the Bone!"), will aim his acid blaster at Wolverine of the X-Men, and Drago from the Superhuman Samurai Syber Squad ("Samurized for your protection!") will launch his shoulder-mounted Pyro-tronic missiles at KiloKhan, overlord of the digital world.

Around the world, 10-centimeter \$6.95 plastic action figures from "Teen-Age Mutant Ninja Turtles" or "Street Fighter II," "Alien," "Predator" and "Spawn" will levitate off shelves and into children's rooms to take part in battles never imagined in the confines of any version of American history.

A mix of traditional American toy making and modern Japanese design fabricated in Chinese factories, these Day-Glo figures speak volumes about the strange path Americans have traveled since our national story collapsed. Twenty years of multi-billion-dollar toy industry sales suggests that no one is likely to patch that story together again. Yet the void in national consciousness where it existed has not been filled.

Once, there was a clear connection between the official American story taught in the classroom and the versions acted out at recess, on floors and in backyards.

Today, the teaching of history in some schools may be hardly different from that of my childhood. In other classrooms it may involve a new kind of story telling giving emphasis to those people previously overlooked.

In many schools it is probably some uncomfortable combination of the two. In any case, to step beyond the classroom into the world of toys is to enter a space disconnected from history.

When Syber-Samurai Santa morphed down the chimney this Christmas, acid blaster at the ready, he was an embodiment of the true curriculum of our times. So ignore media arguments about what books should be read and what history should be taught, and look at your child's floor.

Out here in the cyber-marketplace, all history has been superseded by a new kind of story telling. On that floor is a set of

"stories" barren of historical content, reflecting only the stripped-down global selling environment from which they arise; so insular — yet all-encompassing — as to be no stories at all.

Battles rage on with added intensity. Weapons proliferate in fantastic forms. Yet without seeing the collector cards — or the television cartoons, movies, video games and comics from which the toys spawn — it is virtually impossible to tell the good guys from the bad.

The enemy, still horrific yet now ill-defined, lives in our shadow, opening up ever more chilling secret realms, hopeless yet thrilling, into which to plunge.

The toy companies feed like Jurassic Park's raptors on the reduced narrative carcasses of more than one culture.

For parents, there can be a soothing sort of surrender, perhaps even relief, in buying into such strange stories from the outer space of pop culture.

Yet the view from floor level this Christmas shows that our children — like us — are living in a cultural afterlife. What pathways lead out of the ruins of our national tale neither the traditionalists nor the multiculturalists — neither we nor our children — seem to know.

The writer is author of the forthcoming "The End of Victory Culture: Cold War America and the Disillusioning of a Generation." He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1894: Church on Congo

PARIS — It is stated in the *Vosche Zeitung* that the Christian village on the Congo, the means for founding which were gained in Brussels by the collection of old postage stamps, is now in actual existence. From all parts of the world more than forty million old stamps were collected and sold for a large sum. The village is called "Saint Trudon," and the colonization has begun. Negro boys and girls who were educated by the missionaries are now united in marriage, and have been settled there, each pair receiving a separate house. In the center of the village, on an eminence, stands a church.

1919: Winter Sport

CHAMONIX — With almost three feet of snow already on the slopes, Chamonix' prospects of a

season of unprecedented winter sport is considered excellent. The sporting programme for January is especially good, with many championship contests as its principal features. On January 5, there will be jumping contests on Mont Blanc, with some of Europe's noted ski-ists in attendance.

1944: Atomic Bomb

LONDON — The German radio station, which has been trying to start a panic among the Belgians, said today [Dec. 27] that the Nazis are using an atomic bomb in a new attack. "This is a type of bomb on which the Allies had claimed to have a monopoly," the announcer said. "The Germans used it at St. Vith. Wherever such a missile is dropped all animals and plants cease to exist and huge areas of land are scorched, woods are consumed and any human being is shattered to smithereens."



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OPINION

Those Outside the Prison Of Tibet Should Protest

By A. M. Rosenthal

NEW YORK — From concentration camps come few dispatches, not even when a whole nation is imprisoned. Silence is as real as barbed wire. For the captors, it is at least as effective.

So, when occasionally I write about the captivity of Tibet, readers sometimes ask why I care so much. They ask why they should involve themselves. Isn't so much else more important to American interests?

And since the occupation by the Chinese Communists has been going on so long, almost a half century now, with Beijing making it ever

nies. And yet there they are, flags waving on First Avenue, their ambassadors treated as they should be, with dignity and attention.

But Tibet is not only barred from UN membership; its representatives are usually not even allowed in its state departments of the world.

Why? The nations know what has been happening — the massacres, tortures, pillage, the deportation of millions of Tibetans and their replacement by Chinese, the stone-by-stone, temple-by-temple destruction of a great culture. The truth is that almost all the nations of the world made a deliberate decision to abandon Tibet to its captors.

Among these nations were many UN members ruled by dictators. At least they had some rationale — the brotherhood of tyranny. But for the others, including America and Europe, the reason was money. Beijing constantly warns that trade with China will be cut off for any nation daring to do all that the Tibetans really ask — speak up for their elemental human and political rights.

Every day we commit the crimes of the Tibetans. We talk, we write, we act, we think, we pray.

tighter, forcing more and more Tibetans out of their own country, and the world not even taking note, are not Tibetans and foreigners just perpetuating an impossible dream when they insist that Tibet live?

As the years pass, the questions become ever more important to answer — else the silence will become eternal, and the concentration camp one more national grave.

But before they can be answered, another question must be put: Why is it that Tibet, a nation with a history almost as old as man's memory, a nation with a culture unique in the world, with a religion that not only binds together its own people but embraces men and women all over the world, why is this nation, almost alone among nations, denied the most elemental rights of nationhood and personal freedom?

When I was a young reporter, The New York Times assigned me to the bureau it had just set up at the brand new United Nations. The total membership then was 56, and new countries were asking to be admitted. One day a British delegate warned that if the United Nations kept growing, the membership would be as high as 70, maybe 80.

Today the membership stands at 184. Among them are countries that are minute in population and size; their most important industry is the bureaucracy created to run them. And there are other members whose boundaries and identities were carved out of the map by the colonial powers of Europe for their own administrative and imperial conve-

Once, President Bill Clinton did that. But that was long ago — a year or so. Now Washington talks about sending his wife or the vice president to visit Beijing, the heart and head office of the Chinese and Tibetan concentration camps.

So, after all, what do we outsiders have in common with Tibetans? Shared criminality. The same political crimes that bound us to the victims in the Nazi camps, to the dissidents in the Soviet gulag, to the people in the Khmer Rouge death pits and in the torture chambers of the Middle East bind us to the Tibetans. Every day we commit the crimes for which Tibetans have been made captive, tortured and murdered and for which their nation is sundered and occupied. We talk, we write, we act, we think, we pray.

Tibet has no ethnic or national constituency in the United States. But in America, as around the world, are thousands of people who do what they can for Tibet — write, talk, act, pray, help the International Campaign for Tibet. Among them are intellectuals, business people, members of Congress, working people, Democrats and Republicans.

This constituency is staunch and slowly growing. That is the best reason I can give for hoping for the future of the imprisoned nation in the Himalayas — the international conspiracy of the criminals for freedom.

The New York Times



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NATO and the East

Regarding "Russia Gains, Germany Loses, America Should Stay" (Opinion, Dec. 15) by Brian Beedham:

How can there be doubt over whether Russia (with Ukraine and Belarus) could ever accept NATO poised at its borders, even should the merely defensive nature of the alliance be made perfectly clear and if new aims were imagined for a treaty organization that since its birth had only the aim of containing the Soviet Union and preventing a Communist takeover of Europe?

This undoubtedly has been a great achievement of NATO, for which any right-thinking person should be grateful, the more so in that the Cold War remained cold and a world war is by now an almost forgotten possibility.

Yet, if Russia were to begin to believe that the aim of America and Europe is to apply the Yugoslavia treatment to Russia, the appearance and growth of violent extremism of both the right and the left would be immediate.

Since 1990, little has been done to assist Russia in extricating itself from the economic and social mess caused by 75 years of Communist dogmas and illusions. Now is the time to truly assist Russia.

I agree with Mr. Beedham when he writes that America should stay

in Europe. The question is, in what manner? It is not so much America's physical presence that is now needed, but an economic and cultural one, and most of all the moral presence of a great democracy.

Mr. Beedham's article is extremely interesting and I find myself in agreement with most of his reasonings, as I do not belong to the category of persons who believe that "realpolitik" can be put to rest.

Prince NICHOLAS ROMANOFF, Rougemont, Switzerland

Regarding "Extending NATO Eastward Would Be a Grave Error" (Nov. 30) by Charles A. Kupchan:

NATO has always been far more than a military alliance. Otherwise it would have gone the way of the Warsaw Pact. It is in essence a family of democratic values and a transatlantic consultative framework that the Central European countries feel, rightly, they are entitled to join.

It is the primary American link to a continent whose nations still cannot decide with which neighbors they should be best friends, and who, left to themselves, would unlikely be able to agree on responses to threats or to take decisive action when fundamental human rights are trampled upon. Witness the absurd attachment to the safety of peacekeepers rather than to the sanctity of the lives those forces are supposed to protect in Bosnia.

Although security guarantees are important, NATO's primary mission in the years ahead will be to refine its unique ability to contribute to peacekeeping. Surely Poland's 10 divisions have something to contribute in an era of declining military budgets and resources.

Cost calculations on new NATO membership are abstract in the absence of a permanent threat. Spain entered NATO after six months of negotiation, the details of participation being worked out 10 years later. Why erect double standards now?

NATO membership would assist reform by providing an important stimulus to foreign investment and domestic stability, and an incentive for countries not yet ready to join to improve their record at home.

NATO expansion would be consistent with a new European security community, not a hostile alternative to it. Nothing rules out parallel steps such as making the CSCE a truly collective security organization.

NATO expansion triggered only by a new Russian threat would, as Zbigniew Brzezinski has described it, not only prove "objectively" antagonistic. It could lead to crisis if not apocalypse. Better a transparent and orderly process starting today by making clear the ultimate destiny of the Partnership for Peace.

JOHN BORAWSKI, Brussels

Watch Goodness Well Up On the Bad-News Screen

By Frederick Buechner

PAWLET, Vermont — Martin Luther said once that if he were God he would kick the world to pieces — and who doesn't know what he meant? Only, these days we're so good at kicking the world to pieces ourselves that we hardly need God for the job.

It is not so much the terrible things — Bosnia, Haiti, Angola, AIDS, homelessness, crime and the rest of it —

MEANWHILE

because as Thornton Wilder pointed out, we always manage somehow to survive the terrible things by the skin of our teeth. It is rather our obsession with the terrible things. News has come to mean almost exclusively bad news, and the badness of it has got into our blood.

In America, The fatal beating of Jeffrey Dahmer, Susan Smith drowning her two babies in the family car, close-ups of the disease-ravaged body of the latest person Dr. Jack Kevorkian has helped to die, the O.J. Simpson melodrama — these stories take precedence over events of historical significance, not because they are more important, let alone because the media hope they will somehow be good for us, but because they feed our addiction.

Good things as well as terrible things happen all around us, but when was the last time they made the headlines? Who pays much attention to the genuine accomplishments of President Bill Clinton, who, despite his mistakes, strikes me as arguably the most promising leader America has had for years? The daily vilification of him by the likes of Rush Limbaugh and the Christian right fills the airwaves.

The word "Christian" is itself another case in point. It no longer conjures up the image of Christ but rather the narrow, bigoted, authoritarian political faction that calls itself after him.

A character in Woody Allen's "Hannah and Her Sisters" says that if Jesus Christ were to come back and see what is going on in His name, He would never stop throwing up.

I suspect that God will not kick the world to pieces, if only because if that was on His mind, He would probably have done something about it long since. But those like me who believe in God spend a lot of time asking themselves what He is doing in the world instead — this world where He is so often most conspicuous by what seems like his absence.

The other day I was handed a card with these words: "Prayer does not change things. Prayer changes people. People change things." If one substitutes "God" for "prayer" and can overcome a distaste for slogans, maybe that comes as close to suggesting the answer as anything else could.

I don't think God goes around changing things in the sense of making bad things happen to bad people, or of giving one side victory over the other in wars, or of pushing a bill through Congress to make school prayer constitutional. I believe that most things that happen in the world happen, for better or worse, by chance. But I also believe that through the chance things that happen, God opens up possibilities of redemptive change in the selves even of people who wouldn't be caught dead believing in Him. "Possible" means that we are left free to decide that for us such change is impossible, and to go on with business as usual.

I am almost never moved by what I see on the television news, where suffering is apt to be on such a grand scale that it ceases to be quite real, but one report not long ago was an exception. What I saw on the screen was only a handful of people bringing flowers to set down at the edge of the lake in South Carolina where the two small boys died strapped into the back seat of their mother's car.

Suddenly there were tears in my eyes. It was the children my tears were for, and maybe even for the unimaginable — or all too imaginable — mother. They had to do also with the people bringing the flowers, who apparently had no special connection with the family but simply needed to bring them and leave them there in the grass.

Beyond that, I think my tears had to do with seeing something holy welling up out of the world's unholiness. Or call what was welling up something of great and potentially transforming beauty and hopefulness and mystery, if religion and religious words cause discomfort.

It doesn't matter all that much what one calls such moments, but it does matter immeasurably that we recognize them, and maybe even follow in the direction they point — toward a true humanness that could save this demon-haunted world, if there is anything anywhere to save it.

The writer, a Presbyterian minister, is author most recently of "The Son of Laughter," a novel. He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

BOOKS

BITING THE DUST: The Wild Ride and Dark Romance of the Rodeo Cowboy and the American West
By Dirk Johnson. 239 pages. \$22. Simon & Schuster.

Reviewed by David Rieff

THE American West is, by now, as much a state of mind as a place. Perhaps it always was. The revisionist historians, whatever their own prejudices, surely are right to insist that while the mythic West was a land of untrammeled individualism, in reality the course of

pioneer settlement was largely determined by federal land policies, the wishes of railroad magnates and decisions about subsidized water and grazing rights.

And yet, as Dirk Johnson points out early in "Biting the Dust," his lucid and engaging chronicle of the world of the rodeo cowboy, "As the rest of America becomes noisier, angrier, grimmer, the cavernous, echoing, mystical West, real and imagined, beckons."

Johnson, who is Denver bureau chief for The New York Times, knows the New West that city embodies as intimately as he knows the disappearing

West of small towns and family farms.

But he also understands that paradoxically, as the West itself has changed, and as new people have moved in — particularly in the "Mountain West" of Colorado, Utah, Montana and Wyoming — the mythic weight of the West in the American imagination has grown stronger. "The cowboy has become chic," Johnson writes acutely, "or at least his clothes have."

In "Biting the Dust," he chronicles the itinerant rodeo cowboys. They are, he points out, the descendants of the whites who settled the Old West, the last vestiges of the America in which half the population lived on ranches and farms. For the most part, they come from dying small towns. Most of them, including the hero of "Biting the Dust," the bull rider Joe Wimberly, will not succeed in making a living on the rodeo circuit, yet few can give it up.

The problem is that the rodeo cowboys Johnson came to know understand that they are entertainers, performing in a spectacle that came of age after the Old West had largely disappeared, and, at the same time, are completely caught up in a vision of themselves as the last cowboys.

As a portrait of this world that is at once inordinately attractive and pathetically self-deluding, it is hard to imagine anything better than "Biting the Dust." Joe Wimberly's story is movingly told, without a hint of condescension. What does not entirely coalesce in Johnson's book is his own point of view as narrator.

At one moment, he can be tough-minded and analytical about what rodeo and, more broadly, the American West really represent, only, a few paragraphs later, to fall into the kind of sentimental appraisal of his characters and their world that could well come out of a publicity brochure for a rodeo. But in a time when so many writers, journalists and biographers alike seem to want to do their subjects in, the moments of uncritical affection Johnson allows himself, however questionable they may be intellectually, are refreshing.

It is clear that he believes that, however artificial the myth of the West may have been, we shall all be poorer for its passing.

David Rieff, whose latest book, "Slaughterhouse: Bosnia and the Failure of the West," will be published in February, wrote this for The New York Times.

Thursday

HEALTH/SCIENCE

With a wide range of topics from technology to space exploration, from recent medical discoveries to how the human brain functions, this in-depth feature brings up-to-date information on scientific and physical developments in the intriguing worlds of health and science.

Every Thursday in the International Herald Tribune.

BEST SELLERS

The New York Times
This list is based on reports from more than 2,000 bookstores throughout the United States. Weeks on list are not necessarily consecutive.

FICTION

- | Rank | Title | Author | Weeks on List |
|------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | POLITICALLY CORRECT BEDTIME STORIES | James Finn Garner | 27 |
| 2 | THE CELESTINE PROPEL | by James Redfield | 43 |
| 3 | WINGS | by Danielle Steel | 4 |
| 4 | DEBT OF HONOR | by Tom Clancy | 17 |
| 5 | DISOMANIA | by Stephen King | 10 |
| 6 | THE LOTTERY WINNER | by Mary Higgins Clark | 7 |
| 7 | DARK RIVERS OF THE HEART | by Dean Koontz | 5 |
| 8 | THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY | by Robert James Waller | 124 |
| 9 | GOD'S OTHER SON | by Don Imus | 5 |
| 10 | TALOS | by Anne Rice | 10 |
| 11 | THE GIFT | by Danielle Steel | 22 |
| 12 | THE CHAMBER | by John Grisham | 24 |
| 13 | NOTHING LASTS FOREVER | by Sidney Sheldon | 14 |
| 14 | MUTANT MESSAGE DOWN UNDER | by Mark Morgan | 14 |
| 15 | STAR TREK GENERATIONS | by J.M. Dillard | 3 |

NONFICTION

- | Rank | Title | Author | Weeks on List |
|------|--------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1 | DON'T STAND TOO CLOSE TO A NAKED MAN | by Tim Allen | 12 |

- | | | | |
|----|---|---|----|
| 2 | CROSSING THE THRESHOLD OF HOPE | by John Paul II | 8 |
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Oil Delay For Pilot's Release?

U.S. Seeks Lever With North Korea

WASHINGTON — The outgoing chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives said Tuesday that Congress might delay a scheduled U.S. oil shipment to Pyongyang to force the release of a captured U.S. Army pilot.

"If this airman is not returned, then it is bound to have a negative impact on our relationship with North Korea," Representative Lee H. Hamilton said in a television interview. "It's bound to have a negative impact on the attitude of the Congress toward this agreement," he added.

The United States is to provide 50,000 tons of heavy fuel oil, valued at about \$4.7 million, to North Korea by Jan. 21 as part of an agreement reached in October aimed at eliminating the North's suspected nuclear weapons development program.

"It's difficult for me to see the Congress doing that unless this airman is returned," Mr. Hamilton, an Indiana Democrat, said, referring to the captured pilot, Chief Warrant Officer Bobby Hall.

Mr. Hall has been in North Korean hands since his army helicopter went down in North Korean territory 10 days ago. His co-pilot was killed in the episode, which North Korea says was a spy mission. The United States blames a navigational error.

Representative William B. Richardson, who dealt with the North last week for Mr. Hall's release, said Tuesday that the United States was being subjected to "water torture" but should stay calm and negotiate. "Obviously the North Koreans are squeezing us," the New Mexico Democrat said in a television interview.

Mr. Richardson had arrived in Pyongyang for previously scheduled talks on implementation of the nuclear agreement when the helicopter went down on Dec. 17. After five days of what he termed tough negotiations, Mr. Richardson came out with the body of the dead pilot and what he called assurances that the North would release Mr. Hall in a few days.

"There's a lot of splits there," Mr. Richardson said, adding that he believed a power struggle was under way.

The Clinton administration sent Thomas C. Hubbard, a U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state, to Pyongyang on Monday in an effort to gain Mr. Hall's release. But North Korea said that what it termed an act of espionage needed further investigation under military law.



A Chechen volunteer checking out a piano on Tuesday in one of the debris-littered streets of the capital, Grozny.

YELTSIN: Order Given to Halt Bombing of Civilians in Chechen Capital

Continued from Page 1

ruption, saying, "I am aware that Chechen money is involved in the functioning of some mass media in Russia."

"That is a serious accusation," said Yevgeni A. Kiselyov, host of the news program *Izvestiya*. "I would prefer that the president provide some proof. Otherwise, it is just an example of campaigning against the part of the press that is not doing propaganda for the government forces."

The oil-rich, mostly Muslim republic of

Chechnya has a bitter, centuries-old history of defiance toward Moscow. Led by Dzhokhar Dudayev, a former Soviet Air Force general, Chechnya declared its independence from Moscow three years ago. Russia has been struggling to regain control of the territory ever since.

There was no bombing of Grozny on Tuesday, and fighting was reported to be light, but Mr. Yeltsin did not rule out renewed bombings in his speech. Government officials said laser-guided missiles

would be deployed that could more accurately pinpoint strategic targets in the city.

Chechen Leader's Son Wounded

Mr. Dudayev's son has been seriously wounded in a battle with Russian forces, Chechnya's deputy foreign minister, Ruslan Chimayev, said Tuesday, according to a Reuters dispatch from Moscow.

Mr. Chimayev told Russia's Interfax news agency that Avtur Dudayev, 23, was wounded in fighting outside Grozny. He gave no details of his condition.

DRUGS: Drug Traffic Leaves Deep Scars on an Idyllic Canadian Island

Continued from Page 1

the drug trade. But in the last two years, the police say, the drugs coming in have become stronger and more plentiful, and the dealers are Asian.

In contrast to the established Vietnamese community of several thousand, many of whom arrived from South Vietnam in the 1980s, the new arrivals tend to be from North Vietnam. Many of those engaged in drugs appear to have learned their trade in the refugee camps of Hong Kong, the police say.

A large majority of drug trafficking is done by Vietnamese dealers, said Sergeant Phil Humphries, head of the drug squad for the Nanaimo section of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

"They are trafficking in large amounts of cocaine and heroin," he said, "and their visibility and blatant methods make them obvious to the public as a whole."

Many dealers or their operatives work out of cars, using pagers and cellular phones to make contacts. Others enlist their families.

In March, an undercover policeman arrested an 8-year-old Vietnamese girl for selling heroin in her home. Her parents were not there, and the child apparently was not aware of what was in the packet she handed over; she said she was just imitating what she had seen her father do.

The police say the dealers are targeting high schools. Last April, two boys, 17 and 18, died of heroin overdoses, bringing the total number of residents of the Nanaimo

region who have died of overdoses this year to 25. Drug-related suspensions have doubled at high schools.

Drugs also apparently have led to homicide. In September, the body of Quang Long Tran, a local resident believed by the

'More people are overdosing, more crimes are being committed by people who are strung out. If we don't take strong action now, it will get way out of control.'

Mayor Gary R. Korpan

police to be involved in drugs, was found outside Nanaimo. The case has not been solved.

"Crime here, like crime in the United States, is a growth industry," said Kate Lowe, who works at the local health service. She helped organize a petition and letter-writing drive asking Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to require deportation of non-Canadian criminals and to screen potential immigrants more carefully. She was told the drive generated 10,000 letters to Ottawa.

A local member of Parliament, Bob Ringma, pushed for more resources, and

four officers are being added to the Mounties' federal drug staff in Nanaimo next year, doubling its size. In addition, the police have started regular patrols in area high schools.

Local officials doubt, however, that more police alone will solve the problem. Last spring, the police in Nanaimo and nearby Victoria staged a major bust, arresting 40 people, 15 of them Nanaimo residents. All were Vietnamese. According to Sergeant Humphries, drug activity was virtually uninterrupted.

"It's just a game," he said. "You knock off one guy for drug trafficking and there's a dozen more waiting to take his spot."

Local officials say they are frustrated that the Vietnamese community has been of little help in supplying names of dealers or other information about them. The drug squad has no Vietnamese officers, and the police are hampered by their appearance from infiltrating or even keeping tabs on drug gangs.

To Trang Pham, a nursing student who is vice president of the Nanaimo Vietnamese Society, those who demand cooperation from her community do not understand the potential consequences.

"It is really a small, enclosed community, and we all know each other, so it's really hard to stand up and say those names," she said. "And the volunteer could get himself into trouble. If I said, 'So-and-so did it,' tomorrow they could find my body in the forest."

The U.S.-Algeria Connection

Fundamentalist Link Under New Scrutiny

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — The international fallout from the hijacking of an Air France jet will include fresh scrutiny of a U.S. connection with Algeria's Islamic fundamentalist opposition — a largely symbolic foothold established in Washington by human-rights groups and a few political exiles to gain visibility for their cause.

For months, France has been irritated by U.S. doubts about the policies of Algeria's military government and calls for dialogue with the Muslim-led opposition.

The threat of a fundamentalist takeover in Algeria is France's deepest foreign policy worry, and French officials publicly insinuate that Washington has been heedlessly helping the radicals.

In private, French officials frequently make the point that no American has been killed by terrorists in Algeria who have murdered 25 Frenchmen and a number of foreigners from several other countries.

The implication is that Islamic fundamentalists have some special U.S. tie, a charge rejected by U.S. officials. They say the small number of Americans in Algeria explains the absence of casualties.

The French government, anxious to avoid an Islamic takeover in Algeria before elections in France in the spring, has resisted any dialogue with the Muslim groups and sought instead to bolster the Algerian government.

French officials have complained publicly about the unwillingness of the United States and Germany to provide more financial support to Algeria and their readiness to give political asylum to opposition leaders.

The emotional force of French concern, however, seems to have more to do with history, specifically the growth of U.S. importance in Algeria after the war of independence with France. While largely unofficial, American aid to Algerian revolutionaries who won independence still rankles in France, which has a traditional postcolonial interest in Algeria and the rest of North Africa.

U.S. anti-colonialism in the 1950s and '60s was aimed primarily at preempting Soviet influence. But independent Algeria expanded its U.S. political and economic ties, especially in the oil business, in a way that is rare among former French colonies.

Current French suspicions about U.S. in-

tentions offer an eerie echo of those earlier fears of a U.S. desire to supplant French interests in Algeria.

This friction may now ease, officials said Tuesday, because Western governments will have to take a harder look at the options in Algeria.

Clinton administration officials repeated their view on Tuesday that Paris should attempt to find and nurture a Muslim-led moderate front and, in any case, press the Algerian government to offer a calendar for elections.

In the U.S. view, the Algerian military regime's repressive approach — confirmed by a scorched-earth policy applied in the countryside in recent months in which killing has been widespread — has strengthened, not weakened, the resistance.

American officials predicted that there would be greater French interest in contacts with the main opposition group, the Islamic Salvation Front, as an alternative to extremists who are gaining control of the hard-line military and to the Muslim terrorist underground.

The Air France hijackers, despite an initial demand for the release of imprisoned Islamic Front leaders, appear to have belonged to the Armed Islamic Group.

The movement is considered to be the most radical and dangerous of Algeria's Muslim fundamentalist groups. It is an umbrella name for several terrorist cells that have sprung up as repression has grown.

Dialogue with the Islamic Front, not repression, has been urged by the United States. But France dismissed the idea as a naive notion that would send Algeria the way of Iran and Sudan, which have Islamic governments.

Before the hijacking, however, there were signs in Paris of movement in that direction during talks in the fall between the State Department's top Arab expert and French Foreign Ministry officials. Since then, Washington has managed to curb anti-French comments by Algerian opposition figures who have sought political asylum.

And the Clinton administration has accepted French calls for the West to promote other Algerian political factions in order to prevent an Islamic takeover that could destabilize neighboring countries in North Africa.

How Drama On Runway Was Filmed

International Herald Tribune

Dramatic night pictures seen around the world of the storming of a hijacked jet at Marseille were shot with a standard video camera and a measure of ingenuity.

Although night had virtually fallen when anti-terrorist commandos stormed the aircraft on Monday, the photographer, Jean-François Bramard, managed to obtain vivid color pictures of the raid.

He obtained a vantage point close enough to be able to use a normal lens rather than a telephoto lens, which brings distant objects closer but lets in less light. Mr. Bramard used a simple ring, known as a focal length doubler, to obtain close-ups with the normal lens.

By keeping the lens at maximum aperture and boosting the video signal, he was able to obtain images that appeared to have been taken in daylight. The gain in luminosity was offset by a considerable loss in picture sharpness.

Because he used a normal camera, Mr. Bramard was able to capture the scene in color.

The pictures provided a scoop for the French TV network TF1. Still pictures taken by the Reuters news agency showing the armed gendarmes entering the plane were taken with a conventional camera and telephoto lens. Although still cameras are less useful in low light than video cameras, it is possible to increase low-light possibilities by manipulating film development.

HIJACK: France Acted on a Tip

Continued from Page 1

explosion would devastate the plane," Mr. Pasqua added, "which seems to have been their plan."

After the drama was over, some freed hostages also said they had heard the gunmen talking about destroying the plane over Paris. "They demanded 27 tons of kerosene to fly to Paris, which was more than was needed," said Ferhat Mehenni, a well-known Algerian singer who was one of the hostages. "Their idea was to set Paris ablaze."

The co-pilot, Jean-Paul Boderie, who broke an elbow and a leg when he jumped from the cockpit window at the start of the assault to free the hostages, said sticks of dynamite were placed behind his chair. Another cache of dynamite was found in the middle section of the wide-bodied airliner.

"I was terrified they were going to blow up the plane," an Algerian woman said soon after she was freed. But Marseille's police chief, Alain Gehin, said that, during negotiations with

the hijackers, he never heard them express "the intention of turning the plane into a flying bomb."

On Tuesday, French politicians of all parties praised the Gendarmerie's elite anti-terrorist unit for its successful operation, in which 9 police, 13 passengers and 3 crew members were hurt. The commandos were received Tuesday morning by President François Mitterrand, while Mr. Balladur and Mr. Pasqua flew to Marseille to visit some of the wounded in a hospital.

Ban on Air-Sea Traffic

France said Tuesday it was maintaining a ban on French planes and ships traveling to Algeria while it worked out how to boost security. Reuters reported from Paris.

Transportation Minister Bernard Bosson said after a ministerial meeting that he would meet heads of French transportation firms to discuss extra safety measures, focusing on those carrying passengers.

On Monday, before the end of the 54-hour hijacking, France banned its ships and planes from visiting Algeria, a former French colony.

It kept its ports and airports open to Algerian transporters. Both Air France and the Algerian carrier Air Algérie had several flights daily in each direction. Passenger ferries also regularly ply the maritime route.

The statement did not say how long the halt of passenger traffic might last. But in talks with shipping firms on Tuesday, Mr. Bosson wanted to work out immediate security measures to allow a resumption of maritime freight "as quickly as possible."

Circus Acrobat Plunges To Death in Blackpool

Reuters

LONDON — A high-wire acrobat plunged 50 feet (15 meters) to his death in front of hundreds of horrified spectators at a circus in the seaside resort of Blackpool, police said on Tuesday.

The performer, in his early 20s, was balancing on steel rings high above the ring at the Blackpool Tower Circus on Monday night when he slipped and fell, a police spokesman said.

JAPAN: Signs That Economy Has Turned the Corner

Continued from Page 1

probably have a long, subdued recovery. Economists widely predict that Japan's inflation rate will remain below 1 percent next year.

In fact, deflation is occurring in many sectors of the Japanese economy as a result of cheaper imports that have forced Japanese producers to lower their prices. Foreign beer, for example, sells for less than half the price of domestic brands.

In addition, in their drive to become more efficient, companies are dismantling Japan's multilayer distribution system, a key cause of exorbitant prices.

At the same time regulations that keep prices high are slowly being relaxed.

The rise in industrial output in November was led by production of mobile telephones, motor vehicles, air conditioners, computer chips and printing machinery, the International Trade and Industry Ministry said.

Mobile phones have sold briskly in Japan after the government this spring abolished regulations prohibiting consumers from buying the phones and expanded the area in which they can be used. Previously, mobile phones could be leased

only from telephone companies.

The improvement in November's unemployment rate was dismissed by many economists as temporary. Others, however, said it meant that Japan's labor market was recovering faster than expected.

While the unemployment rate itself improved, the Labor Ministry said the ratio of job openings remained unchanged in November from the two previous months, holding at 0.64. The ratio means there were only 64 job openings available for every 100 workers.

(Bloomberg, Reuters, AFP/AP)

PORTUGAL: A Modern Scandal Grooms a Major Prehistoric Art Find

Continued from Page 1

art near Vila Nova de Fozcoia has become publicly known. An archaeologist identified the first engravings more than two years ago, but the find was kept a secret by the state-owned electricity utility, Electricidade de Portugal, which apparently did not want to disrupt construction of the dam that started in September.

More surprising, the prehistoric murals also were kept secret by the government's archaeology institute, the Institute for Architectural and Archaeological Patrimony, whose president visited the site a year ago.

Even now the survival of the art has not been secured. And in recent weeks archaeologists have spent as much time in campaigning to save the engravings as in analyzing them. "We want the dam project to be stopped and the Coa valley turned into a major cultural resource," said Joa Zilhao, a professor of archaeology at Lisbon University. The valley, he said, also holds later engravings and paintings from 3,000 to 1,000 B.C. and remains from Roman and medieval settlements.

"Some of the images are exceptionally beautiful," he said in a telephone interview after visiting the Paleolithic site.

"There are some unusual scenes, like two horses touching and some animals running. They're not in the more common frozen positions."

The discovery, and its appar-

ent cover-up for more than two years, has now become a scandal in Lisbon, with historians and other intellectuals this month publishing open letters and demanding a parliamentary inquiry.

But around Hell's Canyon, as the gorge is known, the farmers and shepherds apparently are surprised by the fuss about scratchings in the rocks that they had long known about.

"People of the region knew about the pictures," said Milla Simoes, a rock art specialist who has visited the area three times in recent weeks. "They treated Hell's Canyon as a magic place. They said the old people always told them that those rocks were inhabited by spirits. That children should not go there or touch anything."

The ancient art gallery carved into outcroppings and walls is reachable only by river boat or by hiking along the steep and windy shepherd's paths. Yet evidence that local people knew of the markings, Mrs. Simoes said, is offered by the contemporary carvings and scratchings in the rocks, some of them close to the prehistoric images. In one case, she said, a modern bypasser had damaged an ancient engraving by retracing its lines with fresh scratchings.

Archaeologists first learned of the discovery less than two months ago from Nelson Rebenda, a 33-year-old archaeologist from the area. With financing from the electricity utility,

Mr. Rebenda, a government employee, had been quietly studying and photographing the images, retracing a number of them on paper for the past two years.

"Suddenly I got a call from Nelson Rebenda in the middle of the night," said Mrs. Simoes, the rock art specialist who lives in Lisbon. "It was November seven. He sounded in a panic. He was shouting that I should come quickly, that there was rock art that would soon be inundated."

Because Mr. Rebenda had sounded so worried, she said, she and her husband, Ludwig Jaffe, also an archaeologist, made the seven-hour trip the next day.

"What we saw was amazing, magnificent," said Mrs. Simoes, who has worked elsewhere in Europe and South Africa. She said she had learned that Mr. Rebenda had called her because the Douro dam downstream was briefly lowering its water level and would bare many of the flooded engravings for just a few days.

Mr. Rebenda told her he wanted her as a witness to testify that the rock images were genuine. "He said he would publish a thesis and a book, but by then the images would be covered by water so he needed to authenticate them."

When Mrs. Simoes demanded that the discovery be announced "because the Portuguese people must decide if they want a dam there or not," she went on, "Rebenda made a

scene. He started shouting. He even threw his hat on the ground and jumped on it. He said he wanted nobody to know, that he wanted to keep all this for his book."

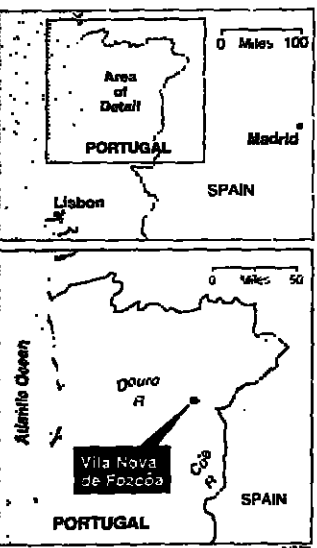
Once Mrs. Simoes had alerted her colleagues and the local press, Mr. Rebenda and his employers at the government archaeology institute had changed their account of the events several times. At first, they announced that "dozens of Stone Age animal designs" had been discovered in recent weeks.

But in a telephone interview, Mr. Rebenda conceded that he had identified the first engravings in 1992 and that he had reported those and subsequent findings to the institute in 1993 and 1994. Although he had several meetings with officials of the archaeology institute and the electricity utility — "we even talked about moving some of the rocks somewhere else" — he said that neither body "seemed interested in what I had to say."

In November 1993, he said he asked officials from the utility to lower the waters in the downstream Douro dam to enable him to study the flooded images. "They told me that was too expensive," he said.

He said he also suggested other solutions, like creating a dry-dock around the rocks or, failing that, making underwater explorations.

Asked why his own institute did not back him, Mr. Rebenda said: "The people responsible



there are architects. They are not much interested in archaeology."

Archaeologists have called for urgent test excavations in the area to further date it through other signs of human presence, like tools, bones or charcoal.

Only two other sites with art from the Stone or Ice Age have been found in Portugal: in a cave at Escoural in the south, and a small patch at Mazouco, in the Vila Nova region, which has just a few open air animals.

Interestingly enough, it was Mr. Rebenda who as a student first reported the Mazouco site, near his home village, in 1981, but it was his professor who got the credit. Colleagues of Mr. Rebenda's have said that this time he was determined to keep the credit for himself.

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STAGE/ENTERTAINMENT

International Herald Tribune
Wednesday, December 28, 1994
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Surviving Yet Another Year

By Sheridan Morley
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — It was the year when a High Court judge solemnly banned "Maxwell the Musical," not then even in preview, on the ground that it might do damage to the case for the defense. "Moby Dick" was, however, allowed to continue at the Barbican, even though it concerned a great white whale disappearing mysteriously into the ocean. The case has yet to come to court.

It was the year when it took 88 living English dramatists to write a letter to the Guardian demanding as of right that their work should be seen on regional stages, specifying three new plays a year, but nowhere explaining how an audience for such work was to be similarly guaranteed to theater managers who would be happier presenting Australian soap stars in pantomimes with wretches.

It was the year when two Evening Standard drama critics solemnly fell out over whether or not there were too many plays on West End stages, and when the drama critic of The Observer equally solemnly suggested that good directors should not be allowed to make money with marathon musical revivals when they could starve for their art on studio stages.

It was the year when Richard Eyre announced he would be leaving the National Theatre, and when several regional playhouses announced they would be closing for good or at the very least operating only as receiving houses, always assuming there was anything still on tour to receive.

It was the year when as many American actresses got fired from the leading role in "Sunset Boulevard" as were actually allowed to play it. It was the year when the playwright with the greatest number of first nights in London over Christmas was Charles Dickens.

It was the year when the Japanese sent

us "Out of the Blue," which very soon went into the Red, and when Barry Manilow's "Copacabana" survived some of the worst reviews since Pearl Harbor. It was the year when our greatest living actor was finally given his own theater in Shaftesbury Avenue, an honor he should have been accorded 30 years ago.

It was the year of the solo show and the tribute concert, which is much the same

LONDON THEATER

thing except that the star of the latter is usually dead in a plane crash and has to be impersonated.

It was the year when "Miss Saigon" overtook "My Fair Lady" to become the longest-running musical, when Vivian Ellis got to be 90, and when Ian McKellen admitted tearing anti-gay pages out of Gideon bibles in American hotel bedrooms.

It was the year when the RSC staged an entire Shakespeare Festival to prove how much better they were at it than any foreign company, and when most of the best drama at the Barbican surrounded the resignation of its Baroness O'Catlain. It was the year when Vanessa Redgrave gave us "Brecht in Hollywood" under her usual, mistaken impression that foreign wars and social injustice allow her to give appalling performances in the name of charity.

It was the year when the Samuel Beckett estate insisted that his works be performed exactly as the author intended; fortunately for Sean Mathias at the Warehouse, the Noel Coward estate is somewhat less intolerant. In contemporary drama there was major new work from Arthur Miller, Brian Friel, David Edgar, Jonathan Harvey, Kevin Elyot and Terry Johnson, though none of it originated anywhere near a commercial house.

Performances of the year would have to include Maggie Smith in "Three Tall

Women" and Clare Higgins leading the National's belated but welcome discovery of the greatness of Broadway drama with Lillian Hellman's "The Children's Hour" and Tennessee Williams's "Sweet Bird of Youth." Actor of the year was undoubtedly Tom Courtenay in a breathtaking return to greatness as the peripatetic, alcoholic Muscovite in "Moscow Stations."

My personal award for the most underrated play, production and performance of the year would go to Richard Nelson's "New England," at the Barbican Pit, a marvelously Chekhovian study of displaced Brits in America which, as so often with Nelson, got largely dismissed because we somehow expect our American dramatists to shout rather than whisper: see also A. R. Gurney.

Theaters of the year include as usual the Warehouse, Bush, Hampstead and Richmond's Orange Tree, though as usual I'm told I stay far too close to London. On the other hand anything good seems to get here pretty fast anyway, and my experience of what does come in (largely from the Edinburgh Festival) suggests that in general rave reviews are given in precise correlation to the distance the critic has had to travel in order to write them.

So what of 1995 in London? Diana Rigg as "Mother Courage," Alan Bates as "The Master Builder," Stephen Sondheim's darkly obsessive "Passion" from Broadway, new plays from David Hare, Tom Stoppard and Simon Gray, and Judi Dench reunited with Ian McKellen for "A Little Night Music." All that and the Boubli/Schönberg "Martin Guerre."

Not a bad lineup for an art form reckoned to be in terminal decline yet again. But as several regional theaters post closing notices, and the much-promoted National Lottery cash has yet to trickle down to us, the fears are still well-founded. In the West End too, it may soon be possible to make a killing but not a living.



Clockwise from top left: From "Copacabana," "New England," "Sunset Boulevard" and "Three Tall Women."

Peter Handke and the Eloquence of Wordlessness

By Alan Riding
New York Times Service

PARIS — A play without words? Mime, of course. Well, no. In mime, gestures replace words and, in the end, little is left unsaid. Peter Handke's idea is different. He looks around and sees myriad brief encounters that never reach the stage of words. So he has written a play before words.

It is not hard to imagine. In the hurried solitude of urban life, individuals send out "here-I-am" messages through their appearance and body language. Without a word, they set off responses of fear, respect, curiosity, arousal, indifference, disapproval. Then the moment passes and the crowd moves on.

In "The Hour We Knew Nothing of Each Other," Handke, the Austrian-born playwright and novelist, has taken this to its theatrical con-

clusion, turning the stage into a piazza where, over a 24-hour period, 400 characters played by 33 actors and actresses appear, observe, are observed and then disappear.

They include a gum-chewing airline captain and his crew, an old fisherman, grinning roller skaters, a sexual deviate, tourists, a transvestite, a man in a tuxedo who has a heart attack, a leggy actress making a movie, and more.

There are even surreal cameo appearances by the likes of Moses, Jacques Tati, Papageno and Tarzan.

The 100-minute play, first produced in February by Berlin's Schaubühne am Lehniner Platz and acclaimed by British critics at this year's Edinburgh Festival, was given 10 performances at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris this month. It was generally well received by French critics.

The production stirred special interest because it com-

bined the recognized talents of Handke, who now lives in Germany, and those of the 46-year-old Swiss-born theater director Luc Bondy, who began his career in Germany in 1971.

Handke's experimentation with literary forms and his public squabbles with Günter Grass have made him one of the best-known writers in the German language. He is a poet and essayist as well as playwright and novelist, and he also wrote the screenplay for Wim Wenders's film "Wings of Desire."

HANDKE, 52, has said that the inspiration for "The Hour We Knew Nothing of Each Other" came simply from sitting in a café in an Italian piazza and watching the world go by.

From his reflections came 46 pages of stage directions for a play that, while wordless, echoed the sounds of his piazza: church bells, a distant radio, plates

breaking, a passing motorcycle.

It was then up to Bondy to orchestrate the flow of people and scenes across Gilles Aillaud's minimalist set, with a whitewashed facade of a Spanish-style hacienda on one side, an abandoned car hidden under canvas on the other and, in the center, a pole with a basketball net and a statue of an Egyptian dog deity.

Holes in the floor provide additional points of entry and exit.

What the audience does not see is the extraordinary scramble backstage as the cast of French and German actors and actresses disappear and reappear, sometimes barely a minute later, in different costumes and roles. Most of the players act out 10 to 15 characters in the course of each performance.

As it happens, Bondy did not want much acting from them. Even though there are many moments of humor, some of slapstick and a few of sentiment-

ality, the director was eager for the cast to appear as normal as possible — as normal, that is, as the weird characters who might cross a piazza thinking of themselves as normal.

Early in his career, Bondy spent two years at Jacques Lecoq's mime school in Paris. Today, he thinks of mime as "too talkative."

In this case, he wanted his cast to remain silent, but also to signal nothing too obviously. "Theater can extract the hidden relationship between people," he told an interviewer. "Whenever I see people, I imagine something more; I fabricate stories."

Here, he invites the audience to do likewise: to spot the exhi-

bitionists, the self-important, the defeated, the crusaders, the handicapped and those so self-absorbed as to notice nothing.

Do Handke and Bondy make words redundant? Not really. The words are there, felt or thought or about to be spoken or spoken and unheard. It is simply up to the audience to pick them.

More simply, perhaps, the play makes the ordinary seem less ordinary. One recent evening, as the audience headed home, the scene at the Châtelet subway station looked strangely familiar. An elderly immigrant swept the platform, a young couple embraced, a homeless man slept on a bench. No words were being spoken.

French Playwright Is Taking Off

By Thomas Quinn Curtiss
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt's first move into the theater, "La Nuit de Valognes," wherein Don Juan is punished for his misbehavior, did not linger long after it displayed great literary grace. But his second try, "Le Visiteur," is a gold mine and has established his reputation.

The 33-year-old Schmitt is now preparing his next play, which bears the title "Golden Joe," a variation on "Hamlet" set in the City

in London in the future. In the year 2010, Hamlet's father is a stockbroker and his brother has murdered him for his position. It is to open at the Théâtre de la Porte Saint-Martin on Feb. 1. Gérard Vergez is directing and Robin Renucci is the lead.

"Le Visiteur" has run for more than a year in Paris to packed houses, and received three Molière awards, for best play at a private theater, best author and the theatrical revelation of 1994. Foreign rights have been bought up and "The Visitor," which closes on Saturday at the Théâtre de Paris, will be seen this season in New York, London, Berlin and in Scandinavia.

The play takes place in the library of Sigmund Freud in Vienna on a night shortly after Hitler has annexed Austria and involves a meeting between Freud and an unwitting guest who claims he is God.

Later in 1995, Schmitt will bring out his translation of "The Merchant of Venice," to be directed by Jean-Luc Tardieu. "I am dusting off all the archaisms to expose the greenery of Shakespeare's language of 400 years ago," Schmitt said.

"Ten years ago, the Parisian stage was bursting with American plays; now there are more young French playwrights than ever," he said. "I understand someone like Ionesco whose philosophy is skin to metaphysics. The mystery is divine, it is spirituality, a promise of sense. Personally I express myself through myths."

"Racine is the greatest French dramatist," he said. "Racine is almost miraculous. He does not show his craftsmanship, he hides it and makes it disappear, a very extreme elegance."

The stage is not Schmitt's only occupation. He has just published his first novel, "La Secte des Egoïstes" (The Egoists' Sect), about a would-be philosopher who has set up a club for people who are assured that no other creature on the globe exists. The period is the 18th century, and an inquisitive scholar seeks to trace the past. There is a flavor of Diderot in this sophisticated spoof.

Schmitt has written for television, too. His various works reveal an artist of refined style, for as he says, "Art should be an art of refinement."

Mike Zwerin, IHT

SHORT CUTS

• **"JACKY TERRASSON"** (Blue Note): Following Marcus Roberts, Roy Hargrove and Joshua Redman, Frenchman Jacky Terrasson (29) won the esteemed Thelonious Monk Foundation competition in 1993, a crucial career move. His touch, time, harmonic smarts, and good sense and humor are launching him into orbit. Billboard magazine called this album, his first as leader, a "drop-your-fork-and-get-up-and-run-across-the-room kind of record."

• **VOCAL SAMPLING**. "Una Forma Mas" (Sire): Afro-Cuban a cappella mambo mania. Six young male Cubans singing and emulating claves, bongos, timbales and other Latin percussion instruments with vocal cords and limb-slapping. (Where's that cowbell coming from?) Talk about body language.

• **JOHN PIZZARELLI**. "New Standards" (MG): When Nat King Cole was producing hit after hit, his color was rused as a factor denying him the superstar status he deserved. In those days, black crooners serenading white ladies was a no-no. Now we have a Cole-clone crooner nobody can object to except denophobes. Any way you listen to it, it's a great sound to have around. Whatever happened to Billy Eckstine?

• **NIELS LAN DOKY**. "Misty Dawn" (Columbia): Pianist Niels Lan Doky is part Vietnamese and part Danish. He speaks French and English fluently. He plays a Swedish folk song as though they're both from Brooklyn. New Dimensions of universal language. (Niels-Henning Orsted Pedersen, bass; Alex Riel, drums.)

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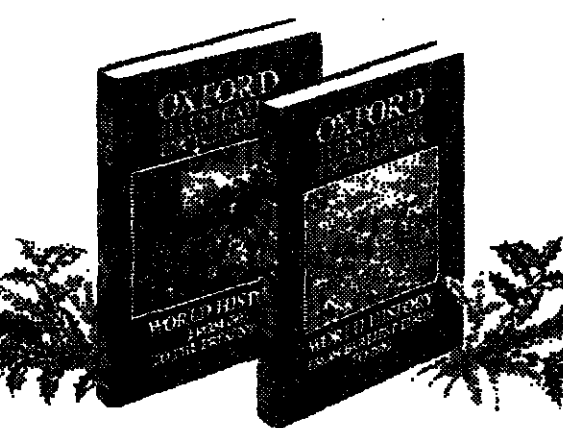
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Herald International Tribune

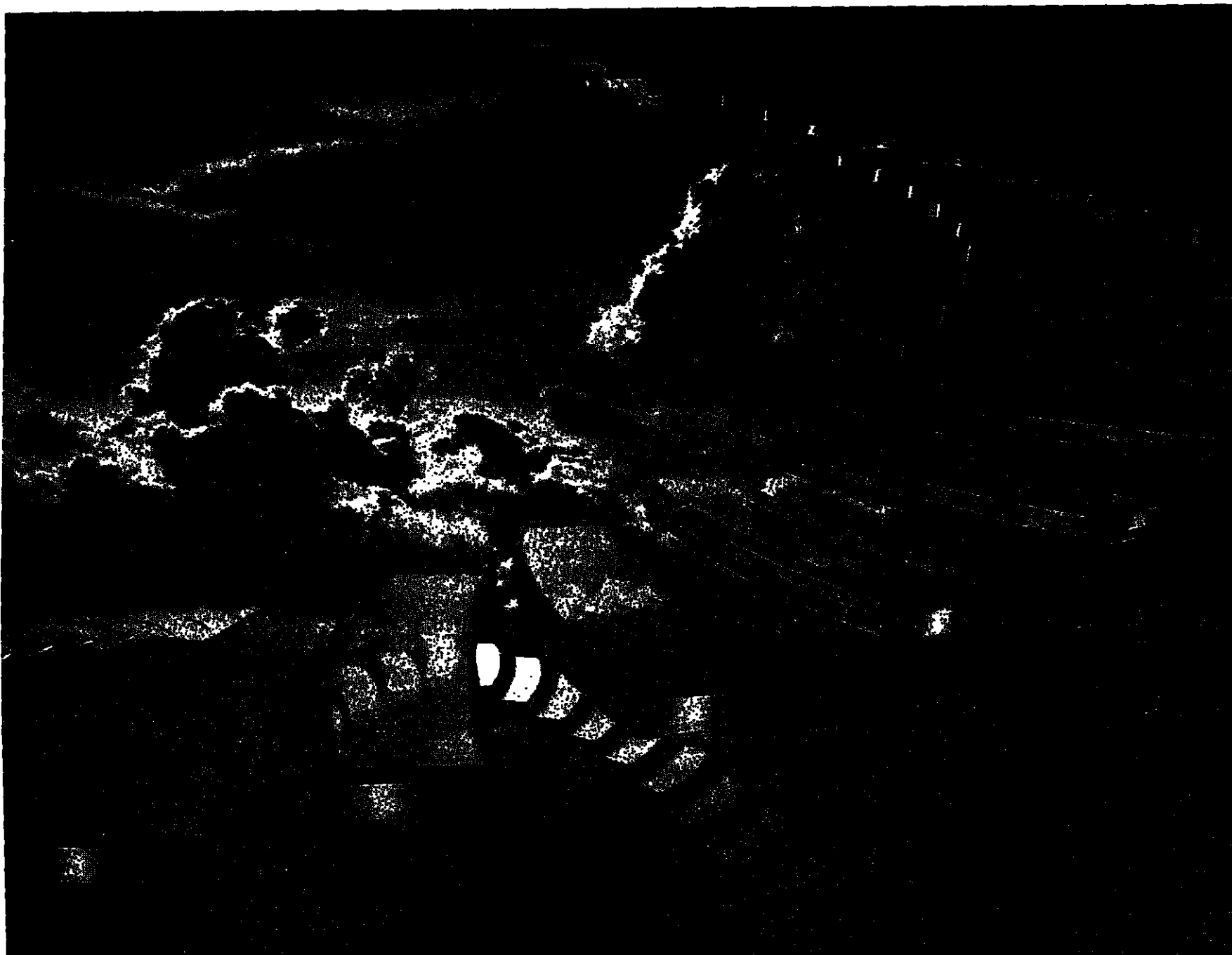
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Belgium	001-800-4663	Denmark	001-800-4663	Italy	001-800-4663	Japan	001-800-4663
Canada	001-800-4663	Finland	001-800-4663	Netherlands	001-800-4663	Portugal	001-800-4663
France	001-800-4663	Greece	001-800-4663	Spain	001-800-4663	Sweden	001-800-4663
Germany	001-800-4663	Ireland	001-800-4663	Switzerland	001-800-4663	Taiwan	001-800-4663
Greece	001-800-4663	Israel	001-800-4663	United Kingdom	001-800-4663	USA	001-800-4663
Ireland	001-800-4663	Italy	001-800-4663	USA	001-800-4663		
Israel	001-800-4663	Japan	001-800-4663				
Italy	001-800-4663	Netherlands	001-800-4663				
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(Francesco Chirichigno)

Managing Director

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	30.06.94	31.12.93*
REVENUES (BILL)	14.276	23.404
ADDED VALUE (BILL)	11.345	18.164
ADDED VALUE / REVENUES (%)	79,5	77,6
GROSS OPERATING MARGIN (BILL)	7.994	12.327
GOM / REVENUES	56	52,7
OPERATING PROFIT (BILL)	3.136	3.796
NET FINANCIAL CHARGES / REVENUES (%)	5,3	9,8
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION (BILL)	2.175	1.741
INVESTMENTS (BILL)	3.680	7.963

*1993 FIGURES REFER TO MERGED COMPANY SIP

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MARKET DIARY

Bonds and Mexico Support Wall Street

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Stocks prices rose in high volume Tuesday, as bond prices jumped and as investors shifted away from foreign markets as the Mexican peso slid.

Electrical equipment makers, automakers and soft-drink issues paced the advance. But re-

U.S. Stocks

tail stocks and Mexican issues traded on U.S. markets bucked the upward trend, ending sharply lower.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 28.26 points, to 3,861.69, helped by General Electric, which closed up 1%, at 51%, and by United Technologies, which ended 1 higher, at 63%.

Advancing issues outnumbered declines by a 7-to-6 ratio on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume totaled 211.2 million shares.

Jitters about the Mexican

peso supported the U.S. market as investors switched from riskier, so-called emerging market investments into U.S. blue-chip stocks, said Michael Metz, investment strategist at Oppenheimer & Co.

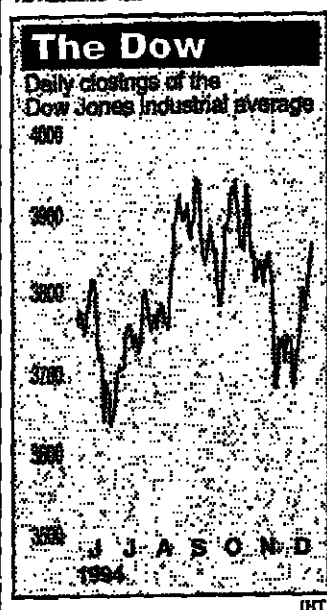
On the NYSE most-active list was Telefonos de Mexico, which dropped 2%, at 38%, and Mexico Fund, which fell 2%, to 20%.

American banks that make loans or hold securities linked with Latin America also came under fire, making the banking industry among the day's worst performers. Citicorp dropped 1%, to 40%, Chemical Banking dropped 3/4, to 36%.

The 30-year Treasury bond yield fell to 7.76 percent from 7.83 percent on Friday as prices rallied, partly in response to a report from the National Association of Realtors that said sales of previously owned homes fell in November to the lowest level in 17 months.

(AP, Bloomberg)

Via Associated Press Dec. 27



NYSE Most Actives

Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4

NASDAQ Most Actives

Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4

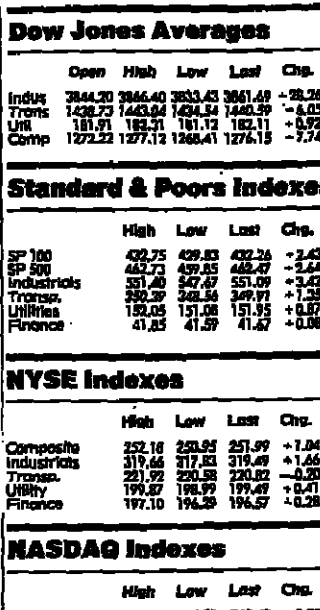
AMEX Most Actives

Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4

Market Sales

	Today	Prev.
NYSE	211.2	211.2
AMEX	211.2	211.2
NASDAQ	211.2	211.2

Via Associated Press Dec. 27



NYSE Most Actives

Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4

NASDAQ Most Actives

Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4

AMEX Most Actives

Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4
Boji	4777	29 1/2	29 1/2	+1/4

Market Sales

	Today	Prev.
NYSE	211.2	211.2
AMEX	211.2	211.2
NASDAQ	211.2	211.2

Spanish Stocks Fall On Political Unease

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MADRID — Stock prices fell to 1994 lows Tuesday as opposition parties demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez over alleged illegal activities by former government officials involved in anti-terrorism.

Spanish bond prices also fell, driving yields to near 20-month highs, as the widening political scandal threatened to undermine the Socialist government.

The Bolsa de Madrid's General Index dropped 8.26 points, or 0.22 percent, to 284.62. The IBEX 35-share index ended the session down 101.23 points, or 3.17 percent, at 3,088.05.

The yield on the 10-year government bond rose to 11.59 percent from 11.56 percent on Friday, the highest since May 11, 1993. The price, which moves inversely to the yield, dropped to 79.89 from 80.10. The five-year bond yield rose to 11.37 percent from 11.35 percent.

The uncertainty about the government's future stems from

charges that the former head of state security, and two other high-ranking officials involved in fighting terrorism by Basque separatists, created an unofficial police force that used some of the terrorists' own violence against them.

Two former police officials were quoted in the newspaper El Mundo as saying the unofficial force, known as the Antiterrorist Liberation Group, was set up and backed by other government officials.

Mr. Gonzalez has denied any government involvement.

Traders said the bearish sentiment that prevailed throughout the day became more intense after the call for Gonzalez's resignation.

"Panic took over investors today, and they opted to sell a good part of their shares before concerns about Gonzalez's possible resignation cause prices to collapse even more," a trader for one Spanish bank said.

(Knight-Ridder, Bloomberg, AFX)

Confidence Surged in December

NEW YORK (Combined Dispatches) — Consumer confidence in the economy strengthened in December to its highest level in four-and-a-half years, helped by the perception that jobs are easier to find and inflation remains low, the Conference Board said Tuesday.

The business research group's index of consumer sentiment, based on survey results, rose to 102.2, up from a revised reading of 100.4 in November. The index, calculated from a base of 100, is derived from responses to questions sent to 5,000 households nationwide. The reading was the highest since 102.4 in June 1990.

But a report by the National Association of Realtors said that sales of existing single-family homes fell to the lowest level in 17 months in November as rising mortgage rates pushed buyers out of the market. Sales dropped 2.6 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2.81 million.

Separately, Visa said that a record \$1 billion of retail sales transactions were made using its credit cards on Friday. While that is the record for retail transactions on a single day, the company said total transactions amounted to \$1 billion on 10 different days during the holiday shopping season.

(AP, Knight-Ridder)

Vehicle Production at 16-Year High

DETROIT (Bloomberg) — North American car and truck production hit a 16-year high of about 15.75 million for 1994, including record output in Canada and Mexico, Ward's Automotive News said Tuesday.

With all vehicle plants having ended production for the year on Monday, car and truck output was estimated rising 10.4 percent from the actual count of almost 14.23 million in 1993, the weekly statistical publication said.

Ward's attributed robust levels in 1994 to production capacity increases in Mexico, transfers by Asian-based automakers of capacity to North America, and a strong U.S. economy.

UPI Says AT&T Seeks Joint Venture

WASHINGTON (Bloomberg) — United Press International, the news agency that was bought by Middle East Broadcasting Co. in 1992, said Tuesday it was in talks with AT&T Corp. to form a venture, possibly to provide on-line information services.

A joint-venture agreement would further enhance AT&T's push into the \$6 billion on-line services market. AT&T bought Ziff Communications Co.'s on-line business last week.

MCI Communications Corp. and Ameritech Corp. have also talked to UPI about a joint venture, said Ron MacIntyre, UPI's vice president of marketing.

Two U.S. Healthcare Firms Team Up

TAMPA, Florida (Bloomberg) — Beverly Enterprises Inc. said Tuesday it would buy Pharmacy Management Services Inc. in a stock swap valued at \$148.5 million, or \$16.50 per Pharmacy Management share. Pharmacy Management, which had \$113 million in revenue last year, sells drugs, medical supplies and equipment to workers' compensation insurers and claimants in all 50 U.S. states. Beverly Enterprises, which had \$2.9 billion in revenue last year, is the largest U.S. provider of long-term health-care services.

For the Record

Rite Aid Corp., the largest U.S. drug store chain, said it had agreed to acquire Perry Drug Stores Inc. for \$11 a share, or about \$132 million in cash.

(Bloomberg)

GTE Corp. said it increased to \$25.50 a share from \$22.50 the amount it plans to pay for 10 million shares of Contel Cellular Inc. and Contel's board approved the transaction. GTE already owns the rest of Contel.

(AP-DJ)

Weekend Box Office

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — "Dumb and Dumber" dominated the U.S. box office again with a gross of \$15.7 million over the weekend. Following are the Top 10 moneymakers, based on Friday ticket sales and estimated sales for Saturday and Sunday.

	(New Line Cinema)	\$15.7 million
1. "Dumb and Dumber"	(Universal)	\$11.8 million
2. "Street Fighter"	(Walt Disney)	\$11.1 million
3. "The Santa Clause"	(Columbia)	\$6.5 million
4. "The Nutcracker"	(Walt Disney)	\$6.1 million
5. "The Little Women"	(Warner Bros.)	\$5.6 million
6. "The Jungle Book"	(Warner Bros.)	\$5.5 million
7. "The Santa Clause"	(Columbia)	\$5.1 million
8. "The Santa Clause"	(Columbia)	\$5.1 million
9. "The Santa Clause"	(Columbia)	\$5.1 million
10. "The Santa Clause"	(Columbia)	\$5.1 million

PESO: Economic Crisis Deepens

Continued from Page 9

scheduled to be sold. The sluggish demand drove interest rates on the 91-day securities to 10.49 percent, the highest level this year.

Mexican businesses, meanwhile, are becoming convinced that the government has lost control of the economy.

"Mexican society must have a clear vision of where this country will be headed in the coming months," said Antonio Sanchez Diaz de Rivera, head of the powerful business lobby Coparmex.

But that may not be forthcoming soon. President Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon postponed a speech on the government's strategy for dealing with the economic crisis that had been scheduled for Tuesday to until at least Jan. 2.

Adding to worries for investors and businesses are signs that the year-old uprising in the southern state of Chiapas is about to heat up. The Zapatista guerrillas are engaged in a game of cat-and-mouse with government security forces after evading a military cordon around their jungle stronghold in the east of the state.

Government troops were reported to have moved closer to the Zapatista stronghold in the

past few days, raising tensions in the area even though neither side has fired a shot in more than 11 months.

U.S. government officials are keeping a close eye on Mexico's economy, especially in light of the closer ties being formed under the North American Free Trade Agreement.

"We are in close contact with the Mexican and Canadian authorities regarding the situation in currency markets and recognize that excessive depreciation is in no one's interest," Lawrence Summers, the U.S. Treasury undersecretary, said Tuesday.

He contended that Mexican economy was fundamentally more sound than the peso's drop suggested.

Meanwhile, the dollar slipped against European currencies in New York trading and edged up against the yen in thin trading marked by speculation as to whether the Federal Reserve Board would raise rates at its next policy-making meeting on Jan. 31.

The dollar ended at 1.5758 Deutsche marks, down from 1.5793 DM Monday, at 5.4420 French francs, down from 5.4525 francs, and at 1.3302 Swiss francs, down from 1.3329 francs. It rose to 100.300 yen from 100.120.

(Bloomberg, AP, Reuters)

VANCOUVER: Reforms to Curb Some Excesses at Frontier Exchange

Continued from Page 9

rules as the regulators. "They don't have a regulatory mindset. It's, 'whatever we can do to help these guys out,'" said Adrian de Plessis, a former trader and author of a book about the Vancouver exchange.

Mr. de Plessis worked for several months as an investigator at the securities commission, then quit earlier this year,

charging that regulators were not interested in going after the bad guys.

John Woods, president of the publication Stockwatch, said the commission displays "an astounding lack of curiosity."

Mr. Holley denied this, saying the problem is that the commission lacks resources and legal backup. With more support, he said, the commission could

easily triple the 50 to 60 cases it brings each year.

In Canada, the securities business is regulated by the provinces, not the national government. This gives the stock exchanges a regional character: the Toronto Stock Exchange, the second-largest in North America, is highly respected.

In British Columbia, however, there is a long tradition of untrammeled free enterprise. The Vancouver exchange was

founded in 1907 principally as a mechanism for financing the growing mining and, later, oil and gas industries. Even then, the Vancouver exchange was known as a frontier exchange. But in the 1980s, the Vancouver exchange's managers decided to move into commercial and industrial sectors.

Donald J. Hudson, president of the Vancouver exchange, said the exchange suffers mostly from image problems.

FUTURE: Ad Industry Seeks Ways to Tap Information Superhighway

Continued from Page 9

Francisco-based company, that will create a three-dimensional virtual reality "World's Fair" for launch on the Internet next autumn. Pavilions and other attractions at the fair will be sponsored, and fair goers will be able to enter these pavilions, receiving product information in a number of nontraditional ways.

"Traditional advertising metaphors simply won't work anymore," said Bob Schmitt, sales and marketing manager for Knowledge Adventure Worlds. "Users can still get the product content they want and

do an end-run around classic ads. Messages will have to be hidden."

Absolut Vodka sought a more subtle sell with an interactive project launched in 1994 called the Absolut Museum. Working again with O&M and using a combination of CD-ROM, or compact disk read-only memory, and the Computer-Serve on-line service, the vodka maker created a virtual art gallery whereby users could view more than 200 color print ads done for Absolut.

Agencies also are racing to understand what consumers will want from interactive advertising. "The imperative is to

let consumers manipulate the advertising," said Steven Weiss, chairman of Quest & Associates, an Atlanta research group owned by Interpublic.

Mr. Weiss said it would one day be possible to call up an ad for a specific automobile on a TV or computer screen at home, or night, with as much as advertising detail as desired. Pushing a button could instantly generate a coupon offering a free test drive at the nearest dealer.

Still, he cautioned that mass acceptance of advertising-on-demand and other techniques would be measured in years. "If you think you can create an experience which will be so

powerful it will change consumer habits overnight, that's wrong," he said. New advertising technology "will have to drive a consumer demand which doesn't exist yet."

Still another consequence in interactive technology will have for agencies concerns the elusive notion of ad accountability.

Consumers will be able to "choose what they want, when they want it," said Michael Bumgar, the chief executive of Budge Worldwide said recently. "In an interactive environment, answerable advertising will give us instant feedback as to how well our message is going over, both in form and content."

U.S. FUTURES

Via Associated Press Dec. 27

Season Season High Low Open High Low Close Chg. Op. Int.

Grains

WHEAT (CBOT) 1994/95, 1995/96, 1996/97, 1997/98, 1998/99, 1999/00, 2000/01, 2001/02, 2002/03, 2003/04, 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25, 2025/26, 2026/27, 2027/28, 2028/29, 2029/30, 2030/31, 2031/32, 2032/33, 2033/34, 2034/35, 2035/36, 2036/37, 2037/38, 2038/39, 2039/40, 2040/41, 2041/42, 2042/43, 2043/44, 2044/45, 2045/46, 2046/47, 2047/48, 2048/49, 2049/50, 2050/51, 2051/52, 2052/53, 2053/54, 2054/55, 2055/56, 2056/57, 2057/58, 2058/59, 2059/60, 2060/61, 2061/62, 2062/63, 2063/64, 2064/65, 2065/66, 2066/67, 2067/68, 2068/69, 2069/70, 2070/71, 2071/72, 2072/73, 2073/74, 2074/75, 2075/76, 2076/77, 2077/78, 2078/79, 2079/80, 2080/81, 2081/82, 2082/83, 2083/84, 2084/85, 2085/86, 2086/87, 2087/88, 2088/89, 2089/90, 2090/91, 2091/92, 2092/93, 2093/94, 2094/95, 2095/96, 2096/97, 2097/98, 2098/99, 2099/00, 2100/01, 2101/02, 2102/03, 2103/04, 2104/05, 2105/06, 2106/07, 2107/08, 2108/09, 2109/10, 2110/11, 2111/12, 2112/13, 2113/14, 2114/15, 2115/16, 2116/17, 2117/18, 2118/19, 2119/20, 2120/21, 2121

NASDAQ

Tuesday's 4 p.m.
This list compiled by the AP, consists of the 1,000
most traded securities in terms of dollar value. It is
updated twice a year.

12 Month	High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100s	High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100s
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SPORTS

Olympic Doors Are Finally Open for the Original American Athletes

By Jere Longman
New York Times Service

STILLWATER, Oklahoma — Donnie Belcourt had no phone, so the message was brought to him by the tribal police. A running camp for American Indian athletes would be held at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. He had two days to get there.

This was early August. Belcourt, a Chippewa-Cree, was living with his mother on the Rocky Boy reservation in northern Montana. He longed to attend the camp, but he had no racing shoes and, more urgently, no car.

So Belcourt awakened at 5:30 the next morning, stuck out his thumb and hitchhiked 100 miles to Great Falls, Montana, where he made the flight to Colorado and his connection with the Olympic people.

"It was the best trip of my life, as far as my career," Belcourt said recently over dinner in this college town, where he once attended school and has returned to live and train.

At 29, in the prime of his running career, Belcourt is one of the athletes benefiting from a new, overdue embrace by the U.S. Olympic Committee of American Indians, who have been successful but rare participants in the Winter and Summer Games.

Jim Thorpe, arguably the greatest athlete of the first half of this century, won the decathlon at the 1912 Summer Olympics in Stockholm. Billy Mills, a gold medalist in Tokyo in 1964, is the only American to win the 10,000-meter track event.

Sport has been part of American Indian culture for centuries; from these indigenous roots modern U.S. team sports have blossomed. Yet, as a group, American Indians have remained as outsiders, and some tribal officials once considered the possibility of competing as a separate nation at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

"I think we have addressed those concerns," said Mike Moran, a spokesman for the USOC.

In an emotional ceremony, the fledgling Native American Sports Council was offi-

cially welcomed into the Olympic community last month. American Indian athletes will have increased access to Olympic training centers in Colorado Springs, Lake Placid, New York, and San Diego.

The year-old Native American Sports Council will gain a seat on the USOC board of directors and access to the Olympic committee's expertise in marketing and fund-raising.

"We cannot be ignored, we cannot be separated," John EagleDay, the NASC's executive director, said during the council's induction in Nashville. "We cannot be denied the opportunity for our young people to soar to the heights of their ambitions. That's what the Olympics represent."

Only a dozen American Indians have competed during the 100-year era of the modern Olympics, most earlier in the century. The reasons are as harsh and chilling as a Montana winter: isolation, lack of access to facilities and coaching, alcoholism, a poverty rate double the national average, a high school dropout rate of 35

percent. Those who leave the reservation for college often feel a pull to hurry back, say athletes, coaches and American Indian leaders. Or a subtle push.

"I grew up with feelings of shame or inferiority," said Mills, the 1964 gold medalist and an Oglala Sioux who was born in Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

"I never felt I truly belonged. I felt different. By the time I arrived in Tokyo, I still felt different, but I understood the difference. Now I had feelings of pride and strength and beauty and tradition. On the victory stand, I was very aware of the passion my teammates and the audience showed for my victory."

"I had a feeling of great pride that is still with me 30 years later. But intermingled with that feeling was a deep ache, knowing that this wonderful country didn't understand me as a Native American."

Now he lends his name and time to such organizations as the Native American Sports Council and the Wings of America running program.

The council's mission is twofold. One, to establish youth sports programs to promote "wellness" in American Indian communities sickened by alcohol, drugs, teenage pregnancy and suicide, and gangs. Two, to identify and lend support to elite athletes like Belcourt, who have a chance to compete in international competitions.

The numbers are small now but the talent pool is significant. Of the 1.96 million American Indians, about half are between the ages of 14 and 27.

Todd Riech, a Flathead-Kootenai who keeps negatives from photographs that his grandfather took of Jim Thorpe, is the national javelin champion.

Mike Jones, of the Tolowa tribe, came off the Indian basketball circuit out West

to make the national squad in team handball last summer and is in training for the 1996 Olympics.

Belcourt competed in the 1992 Olympic track and field trials at 1,500 and 5,000 meters.

"I hope that if kids can see me succeeding, they will think, 'Hey, if he can do it, I can too,'" Belcourt said. "Look at the Kenyans. Once they were a laughingstock in running. Now they win because they expect to win."

At the running camp last summer, the Native American Sports Council provided Belcourt with a new pair of racing flats. Since November, the council has provided \$400 a month toward his rent, \$200 a month for groceries. It will also provide airfare for certain races.

Belcourt lives — still without a phone — in a modest one-bedroom apartment near Oklahoma State University, where he trains with his track coach, Dick Weiss. He bought his first television the other day, and Weiss joked that he was finally "laying down roots."

His goals for 1996 are realistic. He is not likely to make the Olympic team. But he wants to have the chance. When he retires, he wants no could have, should have, would have, no lapses into regret.

He is a distance runner, but his career, his life, has been more like a steep climb, over hurdles that many American Indian athletes have not been able to clear.

Belcourt's natural father is white; he left early and Belcourt has no memory of him. Two of his brothers have spent time in jail, he said, and a teen-age sister has entered a rehabilitation program for her part in a carjacking.

Golden Gloves boxing, then running, took Belcourt in a different direction, opened doors into the white world on which others in his family had been hesitant to knock.

"I don't know if I was lucky or chicken," Belcourt said.

After high school in Billings, Montana, he attended the Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas, a junior college for American Indians that Thorpe and Mills had attended before him, and became a junior college All-American.

Then, in 1985, he received a rare opportunity at the time for an American Indian runner, a chance for a scholarship at a Division I university.

Even now, of the 87,739 athletes who competed in Division I and II sports in 1992 and 1993, only 315 were American Indians. But Weiss offered Belcourt a full scholarship at Oklahoma State and he took it.

"That was an important step," said Mike Deney, who coached Belcourt at Haskell and now coaches at an Indian community college in Albuquerque, New Mexico. "I went to a small school; I was afraid to take a risk. Now I use Donny as an example to my kids: be willing to gamble."

Still, injuries, financial difficulties and a peripatetic life style have hindered him. To support his running, he has worked odd jobs: waiting tables, washing dishes, painting houses, mopping gym, sweeping malls. The tribal elders in Rocky Boy have helped with small amounts of money, provided an occasional plane ticket and invited him home to speak to young athletes.

One day, he may return home to coach. But he hears reproaches, too, that he has betrayed tribal culture by leaving, that he "thinks he's a white boy now."

Taking a Greyhound, he arrived in Stillwater in September with everything he owned: a duffel bag, \$800 and his dream of the Olympics. Now he is getting help, with coaching, rent and food.

The rest is up to him.

RACES: Betting the Horses in Vietnam: Win, Place and Oh What a Show!

Continued from Page 1

good thing. This was during the Tet Offensive of 1968; the Vietcong had occupied the track and were using it as a field hospital.

While the sport survived during most of the war, it could not survive the peace. The Communists viewed racing and gambling as forms of capitalist degeneracy, and after Saigon fell in 1975, Phu Tho was shut down and transformed into a sports and education college for coaches.

But in 1989, as the Vietnamese government liberalized its economic policies, racing was revived, with state ownership of the track and private ownership of the horses. With little capital available,

though, Phu Tho was forced to adopt a wagering system that even track officials concede is primitive.

Only exacta betting is offered at Phu Tho. Clerks sit at a table, behind which is a board holding paper tickets for all the possible combinations in a 10-horse field. If a customer asks for tickets on the 4-6 and 4-10 exactas, the clerk simply tears them off the board and hands them over.

Because there is a finite number of tickets for each combination, it's possible (as in Mr. Mack's era) for tickets to be sold out. The minimum unit of wagering is 1,000 dong (about 9 U.S. cents) and making a serious bet is virtually impossible. My 40,000-dong plunge on Ha Ngoc Chau cost me \$3.63.

Betting is halted two minutes before post time, so that clerks can phone wagering information to a central control room. Payoffs are hand-calculated and announced about 10 minutes after the race. Phu Tho takes a burdensome 35 percent from all wagers, and I was told that illegal bookmakers thrive by offering more attractive odds.

Although Vietnamese racing is now conducted on an exceedingly modest level, the industry has plans to grow — just as many of the country's other new economic ventures are now starting to gain momentum.

Phu Tho has enlisted an English firm, International Racecourse Management, for counsel on its operations. It secured Martell cognac as the sponsor for its championship races. The country has recently imported a few thoroughbreds from Britain to bolster its breeding industry.

And I hope the Vietnamese don't take offense when I suggest another possible improvement: a jockeys' training school.

Because of the holiday, Rob Hughes's soccer column, which usually appears in Wednesday's editions, will appear on Thursday this week.



OOPS — Gheorghe Muresan, stealing the ball from Shaquille O'Neal, helped fool out the Magic's center but the injury-ridden Bulls still lost, 128-121.

Arts & Antiques

Every Saturday. Contact Fred Ronan

Tel.: (33 1) 46 37 93 91, fax: (33 1) 46 37 93 70
or your nearest IHT office or representative

SCOREBOARD

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	21	8	.688	—
New York	12	20	.375	8
New Jersey	17	14	.549	1 1/2
Boston	18	16	.524	1 1/2
Philadelphia	10	24	.294	11
Atlanta	8	26	.232	13
Washington	7	27	.206	14

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	15	8	.652	—
Indiana	14	11	.560	1 1/2
Charlotte	13	12	.520	2 1/2
Chicago	11	18	.379	7
Alaska	9	24	.273	11 1/2
Minnesota	8	27	.232	14 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	18	8	.688	—
Houston	15	9	.625	2
San Antonio	13	9	.591	3
Dallas	12	11	.520	4
Minnesota	6	24	.200	11 1/2

Pacific Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	20	6	.769	—

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POSTCARD

Music Returns to Haiti

By Larry Rohrer

New York Times Service

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — For two months now, ever since President Jean-Bertrand Aristide returned from exile, one particular song has been playing everywhere in Haiti. Called "Reconciliation," it has become a symbol of the mood of hopefulness that now prevails here.

But until this week, the Phantoms, the group that wrote and sang this infectious anthem of the new, democratic Haiti, could not themselves be heard in their homeland.

Like the president they admire, they had been in exile in the United States. They recorded "Reconciliation" there last summer, hoping that their vision of peace would actually come to pass.

To Haitians, therefore, the return of the Phantoms and other performers is also a sign that the worst is over.

After three years of a military dictatorship that routinely used censorship and intimidation to control artistic expression, Haitian music is flowering again.

Songs and videos that were banned because of their coded political messages are again being broadcast. Bands that could not perform in public because of assassination threats have resumed playing. Record companies that had to shut down because of an economic embargo are back in business.

"The police aren't dragging people out of our shows at gunpoint anymore, it's safe for us to rehearse after dark, and I've even gone two or three weeks without scanning the crowd for weapons," said Richard Morse, lead singer of the voodoo rock group Ram, which had several hit songs banned by the military but remained in Haiti.

The creative resurgence comes at a time of heightened interest abroad in Haitian mu-

sic. Several compilations of Haitian music have been released by labels in the United States, a Ram song, "Ibo Lele," was included on the soundtrack of the movie "Philadelphia," and a Haitian band has opened for the Rolling Stones on their "Voodoo Lounge" tour.

But for Haiti's 7 million people, the restoration of free expression through music is seen as an essential part of the democracy they hope to build. In a country where three out of four people cannot read, songs are more than entertainment; they are a means of disseminating and debating ideas and opinions about politics, society and religion.

"As a top Haitian band, we're in a position to teach Haitians what democracy is all about, what human rights and education are worth," said King Kimo, lead singer of the Phantoms. "The problem in this country is one of information and how to get it to the people, and that is something we have a duty to do."

For the group Boukman Eksperyans, things got particularly difficult after they wrote a song called "Dangerous Crossroads" to protest the 1991 overthrow of Father Aristide.

"The military never attacked us directly, but a colonel told me never to go out at night," said Theodore (Lolo) Beaurin, founder of the group, which is named for the leader of an 18th-century rebellion against French colonialism.

"People may want to think everything is all right now that Aristide has returned," Beaurin said. "But we have to go further than that and not let the politicians divide the people again. It is really important for us to be here and feel what's going on and talk about what we feel, to awaken the people and change the system."

Vanessa Redgrave: Her Life and Convictions in Print

By Diana Jean Schemo

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — In the 30 years since Vanessa Redgrave dazzled filmgoers as the loopy rich girl ditching an impossible, hammer-and-sickle obsessed husband in "Morgan," this English actress often seemed to be living at cross-purposes. She would win raves for her performances, then lose jobs with her support for unpopular causes.

In the late 1980s, she became a shadow in newspapers and magazines by demanding that reporters wanting to interview her about acting agree not to ask her about politics, as if there were two Vanessa Redgraves whose passions remained strangers, perhaps enemies.

But in her recent "Vanessa Redgrave: An Autobiography" (Random House), Redgrave says she has come to see her commitments as a river that does not so much divide as nourish her.

"I thought long ago that life was more categorized, more compartmentalized, and that was wrong," she said in a recent interview that began over lunch and continued at her dressing room in the Union Square Theatre, where she is appearing with Eileen Atkins in "Vita and Virginia."

She speaks quietly, her head dropped forward as if sculpturing sentences in a private workshop, auburn hair falling in a half-curtain over her face.

At 57, Redgrave remains one of the more intriguing figures of her age. Daughter of the actors Sir Michael Redgrave and Rachel Kempson, sister of Lynn Redgrave and mother of Natasha and Joely Richardson, she was once hailed as "the greatest actress of the English-speaking theater" by Tennessee Williams.

Others have praised an originality and raw truth of her performances, whether she is portraying the humpbacked 17th-century Ursuline nun of smoldering, frustrated hunger in Ken Russell's film "The Devils," the insecure wife of a Southern bigot in Tennessee Williams' "Orpheus Descending" or the celebrated creator of modern dance, Isadora Duncan, shattered by age and sorrow.

Writing in The New York Times,

David Richards described her performance as Vita Sackville-West in "Vita and Virginia" as a "vivifying force of nature."

As much as she has been praised for her acting, Redgrave has been scorned for her radical politics. She has run for Parliament several times on the Trotskyist Workers' Revolutionary Party, never gathering more than a few hundred votes, on a platform that included nationalization of major industries without compensation and that warned that a Conservative victory in the 1970s would lead to dictatorship and concentration camps in England.

But it has been her fervent anti-Zionism that has done the most to keep her off American stages.

In 1977, she sold both her houses to finance a documentary about the Palestine Liberation Organization in Lebanon, which showed her dancing with a Kalashnikov rifle.

Later, after a successful lawsuit against the Boston Symphony Orchestra for canceling an engagement, in what she said was blacklisting for her political activities, she sought a cultural boycott that would have banned British actors from performing in the Jewish state or having their work shown there.

Redgrave's book suggests an evolution in her priorities and some of her positions that coincides with major progress in struggles with which she has identified in the past, and that has, in the process, freed the actress to mend conflicts that have sundered her own life. Among these, she counts the end of apartheid in South Africa, the peace talks on Northern Ireland and the start of an accord between Palestinians and Israelis.

The book is a patchwork of snippets from her private life and recollections about different roles she has played, which inevitably give way to lengthy passages about her developing political sense and involvement in different causes, particularly the ever-splitting Workers' Revolutionary Party of Gerry Healy.

She seems to live from one crisis to the next through these pages, whether it be mobilizing opposition to the U.S. involvement in Vietnam among



Redgrave sees her commitments as a river that nourishes her.

GIs stationed in Britain or supporting a teachers' strike in Los Angeles.

In one plausible, but unintentionally hilarious passage, Redgrave segues from being in labor with her second child to an analysis of how capitalism has forced more Caesarean births on mothers because they cost more.

The years, she says, have brought her to appreciate the importance of art in all its forms — drama, dance, music, painting, sculpture and literature — to "human beings, as opposed to dehumanized beings."

"When I was very young, I loved these personally, but I didn't really understand how vital they were to human beings, as vital as oxygen," says Redgrave, who seems to have found a unity of purpose in her new

role as Unicef's special representative for the performing arts to the besieged city of Sarajevo.

Her book acknowledges now that the colors of a person are not distinct bits of stained glass, but mix freely within, and it is from this understanding that her most interesting observations unfold.

Her role in a 1960 production of Robert Bolt's anti-nuclear play called "The Tiger and the Horse," she writes, prompted her involvement in nuclear disarmament, and a visit to Fidel Castro's Cuba for a film festival with Tony Richardson, her husband at the time, "fundamentally transformed" her political outlook.

Isadora Duncan's fervent support of communism became a source of

inspiration for the actress portraying her, while reading for "St. Joan of the Stockyards," she writes, "became a source for the development of my political consciousness."

When she says that the qualities that force her to political involvement are the same ones that make her a fine actress, she does not mean it in the obvious sense, that an ability to sink into a stranger's psyche means considering the world through his eyes after the curtain falls.

Rather, Redgrave's starting point is political; in tackling a role, she studies the historical context in which characters operate to uncover their natures. It is from this extra dimension, she asserts, that her performances draw their richness.

Those Redgrave has alienated by her strenuous stands against Zionism may remain offended by her book, which describes the 1948 United Nations partition plan for Palestine as illegal and calls Israel a state created "through terror and mass expulsion."

Redgrave blames Israel for such "massacres" that she contends created Palestinian refugees as the 1948, 1967 and 1973 wars, in which Israel either responded to an imminent military attack or had been attacked first by its Arab neighbors.

But Redgrave embraces the Declaration of Principles signed by Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and goes so far as to say that she counts the opening of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington as one of the "great achievements" of recent years, along with the movie "Schindler's List."

"There's Zionism and there's Zionism," she says now, asserting that there are partisans of humanity as well as brutality in every group. "There's Christianity and Christianity, times when some beastly things have been done in the name of Christianity."

"That's true of all ancient religions, in the sense that they have a long history, but they've also got progressive people," she says, "wonderful people. One has increasingly to look at life in this way, because if we don't, we'll be back in the old dogmas."

WEATHER

Forecast for Thursday through Saturday, as provided by Accu-Weather.

Europe

City	Today	High	Low	Tomorrow	High	Low	Day After	High	Low
Algeria	17/62	11/52	5/42	17/62	13/55	5/42	17/62	13/55	5/42
Amman	6/40	5/41	1/31	6/40	5/41	1/31	6/40	5/41	1/31
Antwerp	5/40	5/41	1/31	5/40	5/41	1/31	5/40	5/41	1/31
Athens	13/55	8/48	3/38	14/57	10/50	3/38	14/57	10/50	3/38
Birmingham	10/51	5/40	1/31	10/51	5/40	1/31	10/51	5/40	1/31
Bombay	9/43	3/27	1/31	9/43	3/27	1/31	9/43	3/27	1/31
Buenos Aires	4/39	4/39	1/31	4/39	4/39	1/31	4/39	4/39	1/31
Calcutta	10/50	7/44	1/31	10/50	7/44	1/31	10/50	7/44	1/31
Cairo	6/43	4/39	1/31	6/43	4/39	1/31	6/43	4/39	1/31
Canton	4/39	3/27	1/31	4/39	3/27	1/31	4/39	3/27	1/31
Cebu	12/54	8/48	3/38	12/54	8/48	3/38	12/54	8/48	3/38
Colon	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Dakar	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Damascus	6/43	4/39	1/31	6/43	4/39	1/31	6/43	4/39	1/31
Dhaka	9/43	3/27	1/31	9/43	3/27	1/31	9/43	3/27	1/31
Hankow	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Hong Kong	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Kobe	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
London	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Lyons	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Manila	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Medan	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Moscow	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Mumbai	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Nairobi	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Paris	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Perth	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Rangoon	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
San Francisco	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Singapore	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Sourabaya	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Taipei	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Tokyo	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Yokohama	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38

Asia

City	Today	High	Low	Tomorrow	High	Low	Day After	High	Low
Bangkok	26/78	18/64	10/50	26/78	18/64	10/50	26/78	18/64	10/50
Beijing	3/27	5/41	1/31	3/27	5/41	1/31	3/27	5/41	1/31
Bombay	9/43	3/27	1/31	9/43	3/27	1/31	9/43	3/27	1/31
Buenos Aires	4/39	4/39	1/31	4/39	4/39	1/31	4/39	4/39	1/31
Calcutta	10/50	7/44	3/38	10/50	7/44	3/38	10/50	7/44	3/38
Canton	4/39	3/27	1/31	4/39	3/27	1/31	4/39	3/27	1/31
Cebu	12/54	8/48	3/38	12/54	8/48	3/38	12/54	8/48	3/38
Colon	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Dakar	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Damascus	6/43	4/39	1/31	6/43	4/39	1/31	6/43	4/39	1/31
Dhaka	9/43	3/27	1/31	9/43	3/27	1/31	9/43	3/27	1/31
Hankow	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Hong Kong	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Kobe	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
London	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Lyons	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Manila	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Medan	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Moscow	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Mumbai	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Nairobi	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Paris	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Perth	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Rangoon	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
San Francisco	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Singapore	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Sourabaya	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Taipei	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Tokyo	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Yokohama	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38

Latin America

North America

New York, Washington, D.C., and Toronto will have dry weather into Friday. Rain is likely by Saturday in Washington, D.C., and New York, with snow in Toronto. Chicago may have snow or rain Thursday, then rain or snow Friday. Los Angeles may have showers Thursday, then dry weather Friday.

Europe

A strong storm will lash the British Isles, northern Europe and Scandinavia into the weekend with wind and periods of rain. There may be snow in sections of Scotland and northern England. Rain and snow will be common in Western Europe and the Mediterranean will be generally dry and seasonable.

Asia

Japan will have dry weather Thursday, then perhaps some sun Friday into Saturday. The mainland (Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong) will be dry and seasonably cool. The south-central part of China will have some rain or snow, especially by Saturday. Singapore will be hot with a shower or two.

Latin America

	Today			Tomorrow		
	High	Low	W	High	Low	W
Buenos Aires	4/39	1/31	1/31	4/39	1/31	1/31
Calcutta	10/50	7/44	3/38	10/50	7/44	3/38
Canton	4/39	3/27	1/31	4/39	3/27	1/31
Cebu	12/54	8/48	3/38	12/54	8/48	3/38
Colon	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Dakar	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Damascus	6/43	4/39	1/31	6/43	4/39	1/31
Dhaka	9/43	3/27	1/31	9/43	3/27	1/31
Hankow	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Hong Kong	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Kobe	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
London	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Lyons	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Manila	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Medan	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Moscow	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Mumbai	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Nairobi	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Osaka	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Paris	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Rangoon	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
San Francisco	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Singapore	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Taipei	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Tokyo	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38
Yokohama	11/52	7/44	3/38	11/52	7/44	3/38

Agencies: American, Associated Press,